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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 196

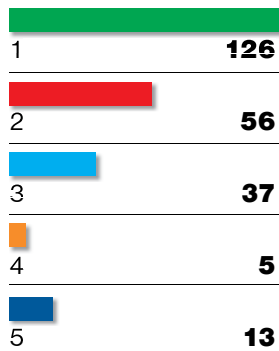
MONDAY JULY 14, 2008

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POLL RESULTS

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the quality of life in the CNMI right now?



Sunday July 13, 2008

INSIDE

Progress

Moist air and calmer winds helped firefighters make progress on a deadly Calif. wildfire.

NATION...Page 15



Aussie Visit

Pope Benedict XVI arrived in Australia on Sunday.

WORLD...Page 17



Baby News

The Brangelina twins are here.

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'Projected power sales to pay for Aggreko contract' PAGE 2

Pew: Monument region is 'biodiversity hotspot' PAGE 3

Talks on federalization regs start

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of 10 federal officials is on island to begin discussions on the implementation of U.S. immigration rules in the Commonwealth.

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RELATED NEWS

'DHS exec optimistic on flexible federalization' PAGE 5



I welcome our guests to the CNMI and I look forward to more discussions on how to best implement the new federal law for the CNMI's maximum economic benefit.

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

As gas prices go up, auto deaths drop



AP

Gas prices, shown at a gas station on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 3, 2008.

By JOAN LOWY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—High gas prices could turn out to be a lifesaver for some drivers. The authors of a new study say gas prices are causing driving declines that could result in a

See GAS PRICES on Page 4



WEEKEND CHALLENGE

Erlin Flores and United Filipino Organization's Flor Miranda compete in the "Pulling the Garter" game during the Bayani Pagalingan Challenge 2008 organized by the Bayani Association at the Garapan Central Park Sunday. The event aimed to revive Filipino games and to reunite all POLO/OWWA skills upgrading and re-integration training graduates.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dems set primary contest between Cing, Crisostimo

Sen. Luis Crisostimo and former Sen. David Cing will face off in a party primary set for Sunday, July 27, 2008, on all three islands.

The NMI Democratic Party said its credentials committee has found that both candidates are qualified to run as the party's candidate in the U.S. congressional delegate election on Nov. 4, 2008.



Crisostimo



Cing

However, since there is only one seat available, the party would need to have a closed primary. This means that only registered Democrats will be allowed to vote.

There has been no final decision yet as to where the primary will be held.

Former Rep. Manuel Sablan, chairman of the party, has asked each candi-

See DEMS on Page 4



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Local

‘Projected power sales to pay for Aggreko contract’

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has sworn there were funds for its temporary power contract based on a prediction that the resulting 24-hour power service would pay for the deal.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna gave this explanation following an inquiry from the Legislature about a funding certification clause in the CUC-Aggreko contract.

In the document, CUC's acting chief financial officer certified "there are sufficient funds available for the execution of this contract." Yet, CUC is asking the Marianas Public Land Trust and the Legislature to provide money to pay Aggreko.

In a letter to the Legislature, Muna said the certification language is "currently standard for all CUC contracts...[and] is prospective in nature."

"Payment of liabilities arising from the Aggreko contract will be from realization of projected

revenue increase as a result of 24-hour power service, plus cost savings as a result of not having to implement a load shedding schedule, manage a blackout, and using more efficient generators," he added.

Under the Aggreko contract, CUC must make an initial payment of \$1.5 million before Aggreko ships the rental generators. The monthly rent will cost \$336,000 or \$504,000, depending on whether CUC avails of 10 MW or 15 MW of

See PROJECTED on Page 4

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NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING LABOR CASES
Tuesday, July 8, 2008 first notice
Monday, July 14, 2008 second notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Your claims will be heard at that time or continued to a date certain. Please bring any documentation necessary to the resolution of your claims or defenses to claims against you. In particular, if you have wage claims or if wage claims are made against you, please bring supporting documentation. If you fail to appear, or fail to bring documentation, your claims or defenses may be dismissed, and an administrative order may be entered against you.

If your case has been resolved through a settlement, or you are a claimant and wish to withdraw your claims, please call Jeffrey Camacho, Chief, Enforcement Section, 236-0960, or come to the Enforcement Office at the Department of Labor.

THIS NOTICE IS POSTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
LC 04-702	Berganio, Elizabeth A.	Song Sim Pak	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 02-288	Bulatao, Rommel M.	Nanyo Co. Ltd	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 02-043	Cabrera, Ma. Cristina B.	Lisa P. Sablan dba Sablan's Topline Cleaning Agency	July 18, 2008	1:00 a.m.
LC 99-349	Camo, Victoria S.	Tellei, Estephan	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 04-641	Chen, Juan	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 01-025	Li, Xiaofen	Lin Hsia Ling H	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-113	Loterte, Rolando S.	Emperor Ent. Corp.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-641	Luo, Guozhen	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 02-274	Not on file	Not on file	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-702	Rivada, Gloria M.	Song Sim Pak	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 02-071	Rokibul, Md	Philpan Inter. Corp.	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 00-210 (R)	Taher, Abu	Shi Yang Corp.	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 04-778	Wang, Minghong	Sun Mei Corp.	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.
LC 04-641	Zhang, Xiaoling	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-605	Zhou, Hailan	United Int'l Corp.	July 18, 2008	12:00 p.m.

Pew: Monument region is 'biodiversity hotspot'

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

A soon to be released scientific report reveals the 115,000 square mile stretch of ocean the Pew Charitable Trust is lobbying the White House to preserve as a national marine monument is a "biodiversity hotspot" with a much wider array of species than previously thought, according to a local Pew staffer.

Based on previously unreleased data gathered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration researchers, the pending report brings to light a new and much fuller picture of the biodiversity contained within the monument's proposed boundaries, said Pew coordinator Angelo Villagomez.

"The area is probably one of the world's biodiversity hotspots," Villagomez said in an interview Friday as the foundation released the final version of an economic analysis on its proposal that suggests the marine monument could spur \$10 million of spending in the Commonwealth annually.

The new report, Villagomez said, stems from a host of scientific studies NOAA has conducted over the last decade on the biodiversity and geology of the CNMI's northern islands and surrounding ocean waters, the site of the proposed monument. Pew staffers are hopeful the report, due for release in the coming weeks, will help make the case for preserving the region.

Chief among the draft report's findings is that the proposed monument would house a host of marine mammal species that have gone unrecognized by researchers and environmental regulators outside of NOAA, such as a variety of distinct

whale species, said Villagomez.

The region's undersea mounds are also microcosms home to a wealth of unique life such as shrimp, crabs and fish species, he added.

"Each of those sea mounds is like a completely different planet, a new assemblage of

completely different species," Villagomez said.

Moreover, the report details distinctive geological activity in the region, he said, such as volcanoes, liquid carbon bubbling through the seafloor and pools of liquid sulfur.

Several opponents of the Pew

proposal could not be reached for comment at press time.

Pew's bid to establish the monument—an effort to capitalize on President Bush's so-called "blue legacy" of ocean preservation—has sparked controversy among many critics, including Gov. Benigno

Fitial and key political leaders, who contend it would violate the Commonwealth's autonomy to regulate its ocean resources. Proponents of the plan, however, say the monument would give a significant boost to the CNMI's struggling economy through tourism and preserve a sensitive and unique ecosystem for the future.

Meanwhile, Pew's newly finalized economic study includes a postscript detailing data on the history of American Memorial Park's management as an example relevant to the non-profit group's bid to create the marine monument. The report notes that federal and local officials jointly operate a marina near the park as "evidence of successful co-management." In addition, it

points to financial reports showing an increasing federal commitment to the park's operation since 1996. Federal funding for the park jumped from \$149,000 to \$1.12 million between 1996 and 2006, the report says.



BON VOYAGE

Malou Villegas Bautista, seated third from left, poses with some of her friends and colleagues at the Seventh Day Adventist Clinic June 27 after being presented with a plaque of appreciation for 21 years of service to the clinic. Bautista will be leaving the island for good as she and her family embarks on a new life in New Zealand. She and her husband will be joined by their three kids: Rene Bautista, 19, Emmanuel James, 17, and Nathan, 12.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter of) FCD GU
The Petition To Appoint) CIVIL ACTION
General Guardianship For:) NO. 08-0380
JHANEKA JEWUELLE)
TAITANO ATALIG,) NOTICE
Minor Child) OF HEARING
ANTONIO SHIRO SANTOS)
and ANGEL KIM SANTOS)
Petitioners)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing in July 21, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 9th day of July, 2008.

Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Palacios says Demapan was 'very candid'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Arnold Palacios said he appreciates chief justice Miguel S. Demapan's candor in his State of the Judiciary Address last Friday.

"It's not your traditional State of the Judiciary address. It did not confine itself to issues and report of the year, particularly on the judiciary. It expanded beyond that and gave a different perspective in terms of the existing situation we're in," Palacios told the media shortly after Demapan delivered his 45-minute Address before a jam-packed joint session of the 16th Legislature.

The speaker said Demapan's speech was a departure from the regular report on what the judicial branch has done by incorporating the current economic situation.

"He's very candid," he said.

Palacios said he agrees with the chief justice on the need for a dialogue among the three branches of the government on important issues

to avoid confrontational arguments in public.

In his Address, Demapan talked about the economic depression and politics, and even chided the Legislature for proposing bills that, according to him, would curtail judicial independence.

Assuring people that the CNMI's judicial system is strong, the chief justice vowed to protect "at all cost" the sanctity of judicial independence.

Demapan also defended the salary of judges or justices, which he described as "one of the many works of genius in our Constitution."

On the judiciary's budget issue, Palacios said Demapan was very honest that it's going to be a challenge for the justices and judges if further cut in their funding level is made.

"I'm glad that he acknowledged the fiscal challenges to the whole government," he said.

"Given the level of funding that we have, which has gone down from the last fiscal year, we will take a look at how we are going to make this [budget]

work," the speaker said.

He said lawmakers will do their very best to spare essential judicial services from budget cuts.

On the salary of justices and judges, Palacios said Demapan was honest where he stands on the issue.

"I will not venture too much to talk about it. Certainly members of the Legislature are free as part of their job and their authority to introduce legislation. Those legislations will be given proper review," he pointed out.

As for the chief justice's concern over some of the initiatives introduced by lawmakers, Palacios said he is confident those issues will be incorporated into the deliberation process.

In a separate interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Senate President Pete Reyes said he agreed with Demapan's call for a dialogue between the different branches of the government.

"That is one thing that I fully support. I think that there is a need to work together not just on the issue of budget but on other issues

that affect the lives of our people," Reyes said.

The Senate president said there is a neutral ground to try and discuss issues

for the best interests and not just based on politics or political leanings.

Reyes refused to comment on the issue of salary of judges and justices.

PROJECTED

From Page 2

electrical power.

Based on CUC calculations, the utility can save \$308,012 a month in overtime and non-personnel costs associated with having to implement power outages, as well as in fuel and lube costs entailed by using existing, less efficient engines.

CUC also expects its sales to increase once it is able to provide 24-hour power service.

"[Our] analysis concludes that the

cost of power production for the Aggreko engines can be borne by projected cost savings plus increase in non-fuel revenues to the extent of a projected surplus of \$792,000 for the 12-month operating period," Muna said.

CUC is trying to get a \$4.5 million loan from MPLT to pay part of the contract amount and to settle debts to other contractors, including Telesource CNMI and Pacific Marine Industrial Corp., which operate the Tinian power plant and the Puerto Rico power plant, respectively.

The loan request requires approval by the Legislature.

DEMS

From Page 1

date to pay a non-refundable primary fee of \$2,500 by Tuesday, July 15, 2008. The successful candidate will be asked to pay an additional \$7,500 for the campaign.

The party hopes to have a candidate before the Aug. 6 deadline for filing nominating petitions with the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Although not a member of the national party, Cing has said the Commonwealth must elect a Democrat to the U.S. Congress, which is currently ruled by the party. He argued that a Democrat would have more clout, and could be appointed to chair relevant subcommittees and work together with the mostly Democratic delegates from other insular areas.

He presented himself as the better candidate than Crisostimo, whom he said is new to the party. "This primary is actually negative for me because I am a hardcore Democrat, while Crisostimo is just a recent member. He won as an independent candidate, right?" He said, though, that he will abide with the party's decision.

In addition to Cing and Crisostimo, five candidates have expressed interest in running independent. Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio will represent the NMI Republican Party. Retired judge Juan T. Lizama, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, and businessman Patrick M. Calvo are planning to run independent.

To date, only Gonzales and Lizama have formally filed their candidacy with the Election Commission. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military ID Card visit

This is to inform all active duty military, reservists, veterans and their dependents that the ID Card personnel from Hawaii will be on island from July 14 to 19, 2008. They will be issuing new and renewing military cards. Hours of operations are as follows:

- Monday - Friday from 8:30am to 7pm
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For more information, contact the Reserve Center at 322-6680. (*PR*)

New Call-A-Ride schedule

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities issued a notice yesterday to inform all Call-a-Ride customers of the revised Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

- Monday to Friday 6am to 9pm
- Saturday 8am to 5pm
- Sunday OFF
- Bus fee \$3 one way, \$6 round trip
- Contact Wildrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell no. 483-9013/9012.

The management and operation of the Saipan Call-A-Ride Accessible Transportation Service program are currently provided by the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities under an annual contract agreement. (*PR*)

GAS PRICES

From Page 1

third fewer auto deaths annually, with the most dramatic drop likely to be among teen drivers.

Professors Michael Morrisey of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and David Grabowski of Harvard Medical School said they found that for every 10 percent increase in gas prices there was a 2.3 percent decline in auto deaths. For drivers ages 15 to 17, the decline was 6 percent, and for ages 18 to 21, it was 3.2 percent.

Their study looked at fatalities from 1985 to 2006, when gas prices reached about \$2.50 a gallon. With gas now

averaging more than \$4 a gallon, Morrisey said he expects to see much greater drop—about 1,000 deaths a month.

With annual auto deaths typically ranging from about 38,000 to 40,000 a year, a drop of 12,000 deaths would cut the total by nearly a third, Morrisey said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"I think there is some silver lining here in higher gas prices in that we will see a public health gain," Grabowski said. But he cautioned that their estimate of a decline of 1,000 deaths a month could be offset somewhat by the shift under way to smaller, lighter, more fuel-efficient cars and the increase in motorcycle and scooter driving.

Morrisey said the study also found

the "same kind of symmetry" between gas prices and auto deaths when prices go down.

"When that happens we drive more, we drive bigger cars, we drive faster and fatalities are higher," he said.

Morrisey and Grabowski found a nearly identical relationship between gas prices and auto deaths in an earlier study that covered 1983 to 2000. The studies used auto deaths tabulated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which hasn't yet released figures for 2007.

Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety, said it makes sense that auto deaths would decline as driving decreases in response to rising gas prices.

"There are a whole bunch of factors that are influenced by higher gasoline prices—teenagers don't have as much money, so you have the most risky drivers driving less; people are switching out of the bigger, older more dangerous vehicles, and people also know if they drive slower they're going to save gasoline," Ditlow said. "So, from a societal viewpoint, higher gasoline prices have a great number of benefits, and one of the most important benefits is fewer traffic fatalities."

But Ditlow said he would be "delighted and amazed" to see deaths drop by a third. He said the declines in driving, while record-setting, still aren't great enough to suggest such a dramatic drop is likely.

The Department of Transportation said last month that Americans drove 1.4 billion fewer highway miles in April, the sixth month in a row that driving was down and a historic turnaround after decades of annual increases in driving.

"We're out there on a limb a little bit," Morrisey acknowledged, "but given that we get such consistent stories across the two time periods (in both studies) with somewhat different methodology, they seem to be pretty robust estimates."

Morrisey and Grabowski presented their findings to a meeting of the American Society of Health Economists in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., last month. The study was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

TALKS

From Page 1

The delegation, made up of representatives of various federal government agencies, arrived on Friday and will meet with local officials until Wednesday this week.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial hosted a breakfast meeting with the visiting officials on Saturday. "I welcome our guests to the CNMI and I look forward to more discussions on how to best implement the new federal law for the CNMI's maximum economic benefit," the governor was quoted as saying in a statement released by the administra-

tion yesterday.

Fitial, who has announced plans to sue the U.S. government over the new immigration law, said he is determined to work with the visiting federal officials "to reach the best possible regulations under the new law."

"I agree with many in our Legislature about the need to engage in good faith negotiations concerning the implementation of this sweeping new law," said Fitial.

The visiting delegation is expected to meet with several government agencies under the Executive Branch, as well as Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Marianas Visitors Authority, and private sector

representatives, such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands. The Fitial administration said it will emphasize during these discussions important issues relating to the CNMI immigration system, including the visa waiver issue in relation to the CNMI visitor industry, as well as issues relating to foreign workers and foreign investment in the CNMI.

"The administration believes the U.S. Department of Homeland Security may have broad discretion under the law to develop and issue regulations in these areas and the meetings over the next few days are intended to present the facts and explore the issues

that need to be addressed in shaping the regulations," the press statement said.

The governor said he is confident the meetings will be productive. He stressed the need to weigh the effect of any proposed regulations on the CNMI economy, which the administration described as "showing some signs of recovering from the current depression, given the increase in flights from Korea and Japan, and the recent uptick in tourist arrivals."

The visiting officials include the following: Igor Timofeyev, director of Immigration Policy and Special Adviser for Asylum and Refugee Affairs; Alex Hartman, policy adviser; Phil Busch, legislative counsel at the USC Citizenship

& Immigration Service; David Gulick, district director of the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service in Honolulu; Steve Sander, congressional liaison at the Office of Insular Affairs; Allen Joe, program manager at the Customs Border Protection's Office of Field Operations in San Francisco; Wayne Wills, special agent-in-charge at the Immigration & Customs Enforcement in Honolulu; Nancy Alcantar, field office director at the ICE Office of Detention and Removal Operations in San Francisco; Clarence Wagner, chief counsel at the ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor in Honolulu; and Paul McCloskey, associate legal adviser at the ICE Office of the Principal Legal Adviser.

'DHS exec optimistic on flexible federalization'

CNMI Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio and Rep. Ralph Torres, chairman of the House of Representatives' Health, Education, and Welfare Committee met Friday with Dr. Richard Barth, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development for the Department of Homeland Security.

Barth is charged with overseeing the development of the regulations that will implement Public Law 110-229, the law that brings the CNMI under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

"The legislation provides the skeleton and the regulations are the muscle that makes it work. It is very important that the regulations are developed in the same spirit that minimizes adverse economic and fiscal effects as the law provides under its principal findings and objectives. Both chairman Torres and I expressed the need to protect businesses, jobs, and access to workers," said Tenorio. "I am



Tenorio



Torres

very pleased with the meeting and the deep understanding that Dr. Barth has for our economic problems."

Recognizing the huge challenge before the Department of Homeland Security and the Northern Marianas, Barth was reportedly "very optimistic" that the law could be flexibly implement-

ed with sensitivity to the economic realities currently faced by the CNMI, while keeping in mind the department's federal responsibility for security of the nation and its Pacific territories.

"We spoke at length about the visa waiver program and the inclusion of China and Russia. There are certainly foreign af-

fairs challenges much larger than the CNMI, but I was relieved that Dr. Barth remained optimistic and recognized the unique aspects of the CNMI. He knows the importance of this developing market to our economy, and I feel optimistic that everything will work out to our advantage," said Tenorio.

A team of Homeland Security attorneys is expected in the CNMI soon that will be meeting with leaders from various private sector industries, Gov. Benigno Fitial, and the Legislature. Their intent is to calm nerves and reassure the people of the CNMI that Homeland Security desires broad participation and transparency in the development of the regulations.

"One of our biggest challenges is the upcoming change in the federal administration next January. I hope that the new President maintains the same commitment to openness that we are currently enjoying. I intend to maintain contact with DHS through the transition and make sure that implementation of this bill remains a top priority with the new administration," said Tenorio.

"I am glad that I was able to participate in this meeting. There is a lot of apprehension and misinformation in the CNMI about the law and the regulations, and it was good for me to hear first hand from the Assistant Secretary of

DHS' willingness to be flexible and their desire to improve the economy of the CNMI," said Torres. (PR)

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PUBLIC NOTICE JULY 14, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Roll Call
 2. Adoption of Agenda
 3. Adoption of Minutes- May 20, 2008
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. QC APPLICATION - Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort
- IV. OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO
- V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors



Sponsored by:
ROTARY CLUB OF SAIPAN

LAS VEGAS



NIGHT

WIN CAR OR CASH RAFFLE & GIVEAWAYS

Saturday, July 19, 2008 • Saipan World Resort (Royal Taga Hall) • 7:00 p.m. - 12 Midnight



\$10,000 or CASH

1st Prize \$3,000

2nd Prize \$2,000

3rd Prize \$1,000

4th & 5th Prize \$500

GAMES OF CHANCE:
Bingo • Black Jack • Roulette
Craps and Texas Hold 'Em Poker

\$5.00 per ticket or \$20.00 per book of 5 tickets

SPECIAL NOTICE

The ROTARY CLUB OF SAIPAN reserves the right to cancel ONLY the CAR or CASH RAFFLE and refund the money of those who have purchased tickets if a minimum of 5,000 tickets are not sold seven days prior to the scheduled event/drawing date. Prior notice will be posted should ONLY the raffle event be cancelled. The LAS VEGAS NIGHT EVENT will be held regardless.

All winners are required by law to file tax form W-2G at the CNMI Tax Office.

THANK YOU for your continued support!!!

The buyer of the ticket is entitled to entry into the "ROTARY CLUB OF SAIPAN LAS VEGAS NIGHT EVENT". Car or Cash Raffle and Door Prizes on Saturday, July 19, 2008. Complimentary Ticket not eligible to win car, cash and door prizes.

The "CASH RAFFLE PRIZE" presentation will be held at a later date, the winner of this prize will be contacted not more than seven days after the event for details.



‘PAGALINGAN CHALLENGE’
Bayani Association board of directors, officers, members and POLO/OWWA skills upgrading and re-integration training graduates gather for a photo during the Bayani Pagalingan Challenge 2008 at the Garapan Central Park Sunday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Court cases declining except family matters

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Except in family court, all cases filed in the Superior Court the past eight years show a decreasing trend.

According to the CNMI Judiciary’s Annual Report for Calendar Year 2007, a total of 82,516 cases were filed from 2000 to 2007.

During that eight-year period, a total of 71,811 cases were disposed and 10,705 cases were pending. This translates to 87.03 percent in total cases disposed and 12.97 percent total cases pending.

The total number of cases dropped significantly. From a high of 15,589 in 2000, there were only 5,630 total cases filed in 2007.

The figures show a declining trend. In 2001, there were 13,737 total cases; in 2002, 11,748; in 2003, 8,971; in 2004, 10,515; in 2005, 8,076; and in 2006, 8,250.

The bulk of the 82,516 total cases filed were traffic and small

claims, with 58,529 and 10,558 cases respectively.

There were 5,299 family court cases, 4,930 civil cases, and 3,200 criminal cases.

The trend also indicates decreasing total numbers in civil, criminal, small claims, and traffic cases.

But the family court figures show a different story. From 623 cases filed in 2000 before the family court, the number climbed to 780 in 2007.

The statistics show an upward trend. In 2001 there were 598; in 2002, 674; in 2003, 549; in 2004, 612; in 2005, 701; and in 2006, 762.

The Judiciary’s Annul Report stated that from 2003 to 2007, divorce, family protection and juvenile filings show a pattern of high in numbers for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The data also shows significant increases in the filings of Family Protection cases (TRO), guardianship, and wardship cases in 2007, compared to previous years.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF CLOSURE OR DISMISSAL AGENCY CASES

July 14, 2008, first notice July 21, 2006, second notice

COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING AGENCY CASES:
Each of the agency cases listed below has been adjudicated by the Administrative Hearing Office or dismissed by the Director of Labor. In each case, this is a final action by the Administrative Hearing Office or the Director of Labor. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been adjudicated or dismissed. Any complainant who has not been served personally or by mail with the hearing officer’s order adjudicating or dismissing the case is now, as of the second date of publication of this notice, served with the order. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer’s order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A complainant whose case has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the second date of publication of this notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior served personally or otherwise on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that service. The Director of Labor has discretion to dismiss or close any agency case.

CASE NO.	RESPONDENT	CASE NO.	RESPONDENT	CASE NO.	RESPONDENT
06-039-05	A.Y.D. Services, Inc.	06-052-05	Hafa Adai Beach Hotel	06-113-08	RDA Enterprises, Inc.
06-102-08	Acejo, Rhodora Dlg.	06-053-05	Handsome Textile	06-155-11	Rejoice Beauty Salon and Dress Shop
06-163-12	American Kai Hua	06-054-05	Handsome Textile	06-069-06	Reyes Protective Agency
06-040-05	American Sai Green	06-051-05	Hard Rock Café	06-122-09	Reyes, Joaquin T.
06-146-11	Americana Construction Corp.	06-104-08	Herman’s Modern Bakery	06-017-03	Rifu Apparel Corp.
06-091-07	Angel Wings Corporation	06-143-11	Herman’s Modern Bakery	06-033-05	Rifu Apparel Corp.
06-026-03	Aqua Hotel and Resort	06-087-07	Hotel Nikko Saipan	06-076-06	Rongli Development Corp.
06-147-11	Asia West Investment dba Paradise	06-098-07	Huang Zheng Corp., Ltd.	06-120-09	RYU Corp. dba Ipukku Restaurant
06-041-05	Atalig, Felipe Q.	06-005-01	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	06-150-11	Saint Trading
06-165-12	Auntie Mag’s Catering	06-088-07	Inter-Kam Corporation	06-135-10	Saipan Crew Boat
06-029-04	Ayuyu, James	06-111-08	JM Sablan Co. & Tito M. Sablan	06-080-06	Saipan Grand Hotel
06-106-08	Big Boz II Marine	06-107-08	Jones, Joseph	06-081-06	Saipan Min River Corporation
06-083-07	Cabrera, Diego	06-055-05	Jung-A Enterprises	06-019-03	Saipan Waste Management
06-158-11	Cabrera, Joaquin S.	06-021-03	Kaipat, Francisco L.	06-116-08	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
06-073-06	Cabrera, Lucinda	06-027-04	Kairos Ent., Inc.	06-064-05	Sam Marianas
06-092-07	Camacho, Juan A.	06-136-10	Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd.	06-154-11	Samsung Corporation
06-006-02	Celis, Manuel C. (deceased)	06-011-02	Koo, Cho Hong dba Kiwon Corp.	06-101-08	San Nicolas, Benedicta P.
06-007-02	Chang, Wang Yuong (deceased)	06-118-08	Kyung An Corporation	06-108-08	SBR Ent., Inc. dba Day Care Center
06-008-02	Chen, Shaofan	06-079-06	Kyungseung, Inc.	06-057-05	Sea Lago, Inc.
06-097-07	Chong, Jose L.	06-031-05	Laniyo, Carmen	06-115-08	Seman, Vicente T.
06-042-05	Concord Garment MFG, Inc.	06-131-10	Li and Fung Exports, Ltd.	06-075-06	Sheu’s Brothers Holding Co.
06-043-05	Concord Garment MFG, Inc.	06-138-10	Luen Tai Ent., Inc.	06-124-09	Smile Poker
06-044-05	Concord Garment MFG, Inc.	06-119-09	M&L, Ltd. and Sky International	06-114-08	Soo Jee Corporation
06-045-05	Concord Garment MFG, Inc.	06-121-09	Magofna, Rosalina	06-129-10	Success Corporation
06-046-05	Concord Garment MFG, Inc.	06-093-07	Malone, Reyna and Soares, Joe	06-153-11	Tandem Skydive Saipan, Inc.
06-047-05	Concord Garment MFG, Inc.	06-023-03	Manibusan, Jesus R.	06-152-11	Three Nine Corporation
06-048-05	Concord Garment MFG, Inc.	06-014-03	Mariana Resort and Spa	06-058-05	Top Fashion, Inc.
06-049-05	Concord Garment MFG, Inc.	06-035-05	Marianas Gift Supply, Inc.	06-125-09	Torres Refrigeration, Inc.
06-030-04	Concorde Garment MFG Inc.	06-036-05	Marianas Gift Supply, Inc.	06-161-12	Tropical Productions
06-037-05	Concorde Garment MFG Inc.	06-110-08	Marianas Variety	06-132-10	Two Eight Corporation
06-070-06	Concorde Garment MFG Inc.	06-009-02	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	06-060-05	United International Corp.
06-095-07	Concorde Garment MFG Inc.	06-133-10	Marzan, Emeterio T.	06-061-05	United International Corp.
06-166-12	Concorde Garment MFG Inc.	06-056-05	Masa Corporation	06-090-07	United International Corp.
06-050-05	Coral Ocean Point	06-085-07	Michelle Corporation	06-156-11	United International Corp.
06-099-07	Cruz, Angel P. Jr.	06-016-03	Micro Pacific, Inc.	06-038-05	Uno Moda Corporation
06-149-11	CS Corporation	06-012-03	Misamis Construction Saipan	06-059-05	Uno Mode Corporation
06-127-10	D Won Corporation	06-086-07	Misamis Construction Saipan	06-148-11	Wecco Elec. Contractor
06-077-06	Dai, Xiaojun	06-117-08	MZ Corporation	06-103-08	White House Corp. dba Moonlight
06-096-07	Dela Cruz, Cristina	06-139-10	MZ Corporation	06-109-08	White House Corp. dba Moonlight
06-142-10	Dela Cruz, Cristina	06-072-06	New Pacific Rainbow Corp.	06-164-12	Wilson, Tadeo dba Choi’s Fishing Market
06-024-03	Dong Fong Corporation	06-100-07	New Pacific Rainbow Corp.	06-130-10	Winner’s Corporation
06-084-07	Double J Corporation	06-010-02	Niizeki Int’l, Spn, Co., Ltd. dba GIG Discotheque	06-003-01	Winner’s II
06-022-03	Double Lee Corporation	06-020-03	Oak Corporation, Inc.	06-028-04	Xu Lan Corporation
06-089-07	E.W.G.E. Corporation	06-145-11	Pacific Quality Builder, Inc.	06-167-12	Yun’s Corp. dba Town House Dept. Store
06-160-12	Echo Karaoke & Tinian Dynasty	06-140-10	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	06-018-03	YZL Corporation
06-034-05	Energy Corporation	06-144-11	Pantaleon Valenzuela Services	06-025-03	Zhang, Fu
06-162-12	Falg, Mariano	06-013-03	Pestex Company	06-128-10	Zhen Rui Brother Corp.
06-134-10	FAS Moving & Storage Company	06-067-06	Po, Edwin		
06-151-11	Fejeran, Julie L.	06-168-12	Poong In (Spn), Inc.		
06-137-10	Gottwald, Jocelyn L.	06-032-05	R & B Corporation		
06-159-11	Great Corporation				
06-082-06	Great Sunshine Corporation				

Inos expresses confidence in confirmation by Senate

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Perry Inos has expressed confidence that the Senate will soon affirm his appointment as an associate judge.

“I talked to most of the senators and they committed their affirmative vote for me,” Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview shortly after chief justice Miguel S. Demapan delivered his State of the Judiciary Address Friday.

Inos said what he understands is that the senators are putting together a schedule for a public hearing on the three islands regarding his appointment.

“But I’m not sure when that is. This is just informal, but I’m hearing somewhere between the late last week of July to first or second week of August. That’s the timeline they were working on,” he said.

Inos said that when he assumes the bench, people could

expect from him the constitutional requirements for the judge—to be fair and impartial.

As for some people saying he is too young for the position, the 41-year-old Inos cited the NMI Constitution, which requires that a judge, at a minimum, be 35 years old.

A native of Rota, the lawyer has been practicing law in the NMI since 1995.

When asked why he accepted Gov. Benigno Fitial’s appointment as Juan T. Lizama’s replacement, Inos said it was an honor in the first place.

Secondly, he said, it is “a change in atmosphere, a different type of workload.”

Inos graduated with a bachelor’s degree, major in business management, from the University of Guam in 1987. He attended the University of New Mexico School of Law and received his law degree in 1994.

Before becoming a lawyer, he worked as a teacher at Rota High School.

Live fire training set on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam are warning the public that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on July 14-18, 2008, from 7am to 9pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO’s Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. **(EMO)**

Passenger of plane that crashed in Dandan sues

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@tribune.com
REPORTER

Another passenger of the Piper Cherokee aircraft who was injured when the plane crashed on a farm on Saipan two years ago while en route to Tinian has filed a lawsuit in federal court to seek damages for her injuries.

Yoko Kamiyama sued pilot Brent J. Hinkemeyer, Taga Air Charter Services Inc., Tinian Dynasty Hotel Inc., Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., and 75 unnamed co-defendants.

Kamiyama, through counsel Bruce Berline, sued the defendants for negligence, intentional misrepresentation, negligent misrepresentation, violation of CNMI's Consumer Protection Act, and violation of certain U.S. Treaties.

The plaintiff is seeking over \$100,000 in damages, court costs, attorney's fees, and pre-judgment interest.

In the suit filed Thursday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Berline said the Tinian Dynasty Hotel, which had leased the Piper Cherokee, was responsible for the operational control of the airplane when the incident happened.

At the time of the flight, Berline said, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Hong Kong Entertainment were not authorized to conduct air operations under the Federal Aviation Regulations.

On Aug. 11, 2006, the airplane, piloted by Hinkemeyer, crashed into a farm in Upper Dandan, bursting into flames and destroying the airplane. Kamiyama was one of the seven passengers aboard the plane.

On that day, according to Berline, Hinkemeyer was not authorized to fly the airplane under FAR. Up to and including the day

of the incident, the lawyer alleged, Taga Air's policy was to fuel only the airplane's main inboard wing tanks, leaving the plane's out-

board wing tip tanks empty.

"Such policies were in violation of the explicit language contained in the airplane's

flight, operating and or owner's manual and applicable Federal Aviation Administration rules and regulations, including with-

out limitation, the Federal Aviation Regulations," Berline said. Moreover, prior to the incident, the airplane's manufacturer is-

sued a mandatory service bulletin for the installation of shoulder harnesses for all passengers, he

See **PASSENGER** on Page 8

2008 TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS



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Tony Roma's
Kautz Glass
KSPN2/The Visitors Channel

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,)
) NO. 07-256

Plaintiff,)

THE ESTATE OF BENEDICTO)
ANGAILAN LIMES,)

Defendant.)

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 9, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: W No. 015 D 029, situated in China Town, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 971 square meters, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys official cadastral plat no. 015 D 00.

Date Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 1, 2008, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 17th day of June, 2008

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE,
Auctioneer

PASSENGER

From Page 7

said. The mandatory service bulletin included a warning not to seat passengers in the airplane's optional seventh seat if the harness was not installed.

Taga Air determined that compliance with said mandatory service bulletin was required and that the provisions of the mandatory service bulletin had been complied with.

Berline said that FAA's rules and regulations require compliance with manufacturer's mandatory service bulletins.

Additionally, Berline said, on the day of the incident, the airplane was loaded in excess of its allowable operating weight prior to takeoff, in violation of the airplane's flight, operating or owner's manual, or applicable FAA rules and regulations.

He asserted that defendants failed to obtain liability insurance on the airplane and to provide the FAA with evidence of such liability insurance.

Kamiyama purchased round-trip airline tickets from a Japan travel agency in order to fly from Japan to Tinian.

On Aug. 10, 2006, Kamiyama boarded a Northwest Airlines flight at Tokyo Narita International Airport and flew, nonstop, to the Saipan International Airport.

On Aug. 11, 2006, immediately after deplaning from the Northwest flight, Kamiyama walked over to the domestic terminal located at the Saipan International Airport and boarded the airplane, along with five other passengers, in order to fly to Tinian.

Berline said Kamiyama sat on the right side of the plane, in the seat directly behind Timmerman.

Patrick James Timmerman, who also was a licensed pilot

employed by Tinian Dynasty, sat in the front, right side of the plane next to pilot Hinkemeyer.

At 2:15am, Berline said, Hinkemeyer taxied the aircraft onto Saipan International Airport's Runway 07.

He said Hinkemeyer, however, did not taxi to the threshold of Runway 07 in order to use the runway's entire length of 8,700 feet.

Instead, Berline noted, the pilot began the takeoff from the intersection of Runway 07 and Bravo taxiway.

Hinkemeyer accelerated the airplane down Runway 07 and as the plane became airborne, it began its initial climb to altitude.

"Shortly after becoming airborne, while still in its initial climb, the plane's single engine lost power. The plane crashed into the jungle about one half mile southeast of the departure end of Runway 07," he said.

After the airplane crashed into the jungle, Berline said the fuel selector valve was found to be positioned so as to draw fuel from the left outboard wing tip tank.

Kamiyama sustained serious injuries, including burns on her arms and legs, fractured and broken bones, various contusions and other injuries. Berline said his client also suffered and continues to suffer tremendous pain and anguish as well as severe shock to her entire system.

"The crash and resulting injuries and damages were caused by defendants negligently operating, maintaining, certifying, servicing and or controlling the aircraft," he added.

Last February, Timmerman also filed a lawsuit in federal court against the same defendants. Timmerman's wife, Maria Purley Agcaoili Timmerman, and their minor son also joined the lawsuit as co-plaintiffs.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 14, 1999

Managaha concession: OPA clears way for new RFP

By quashing a local corporation's attempt to stop a new bidding, the Office of the Public Auditor yesterday paved the way for the Board of Public Lands to push through with its solicitation of new proposals for the grant of a concession to operate Managaha Island. OPA denied an appeal by the Marianas Marine Management Inc. (MMM), which had attempted to stop the land board from seeking a new request for proposals on grounds that it violated the CNMI's procurement regulations.

Kagman school contractor vows to expedite project

Pac United Corp., the contractor for the Public School System's new CIP project, promised yesterday to expedite the construction of Kagman Elementary School. Deng Junhua, president of Pac United, said his company has started addressing the concerns of PSS and the Department of Public Works, specifically the quality of construction materials.

USCG asks boat owners to be Y2K compliant

The U.S. Coast Guard yesterday asked owners of ships and marine facility managers to make sure that they are Y2K compliant to prevent any sea disaster related to the millennium computer bug. As part of its marine safety campaign, the Coast Guard asked owners and operators of the vessels to answer a survey prepared by the International Maritime Organization to find out the preparations they are doing for potential Y2K-related system failures, said Lt. Junior Grade Scott Masterson.

July 14, 2000

Babauta: Hire lobbyists in Washington

Warning of impending doom for the CNMI's fragile economy, acting Speaker Oscar M. Babauta yesterday appealed for joint efforts of the government and the private sector to thwart attempts to deprive the islands of trade privileges under the Covenant. At the same time, he said he will sponsor a joint House-Senate resolution that will urge Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to consider engaging a lobbying or public relations firm that will defend local interests in Washington D.C.

Bomb found in Garapan

The Emergency Management Office has sought the assistance of a Guam-based Explosive Ordnance Disposal team for the detonation of a 16-inch live ordnance projectile discovered Wednesday morning across the former Figueroa's Restaurant in the Garapan commercial district. The explosive was found lying in the middle of the ground where a two-storey commercial building is being built.

CDA eyes restructuring of loan terms

Despite the slow recovery of the local economy as manifested by the increasing number of visitors into the islands and stabilizing government revenues, public and private lending agencies are still likely to tighten their belts to clients seeking new or additional loans. Board Chair John S. Tenorio said the Commonwealth Development Authority would continue to implement stricter measures in the approval of new loans citing as reason the overwhelming concerns on the capability of borrowers to pay back.

July 14, 2003

Tourism turnaround seen

Even as June posts lowest arrivals for fiscal year The SARS-triggered travel scare that tremendously impacted outbound travel from the CNMI's major tourism market-Japan-is projected to abate now that the viral spread has been controlled worldwide, perking up travel demand. The Marianas Visitors Authority remains extra positive that Japanese arrivals in the Commonwealth would tremendously rebound this summer and even reach record-setting statistics by fall, even as total visitor entry to the islands last June went down to its lowest this fiscal year.

Classroom overcrowding remains a problem

Despite the opening of four new schools last year, the Public School System continues to experience shortage in facilities including classrooms, particularly in the elementary level. Prime examples of this are the Garapan and Kagman elementary schools. GES was built to accommodate only about 750 students but its student population has now reached over 900, making it the most crowded elementary school.

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Body of missing diver recovered

HONOLULU—Crew members aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Galveston Island yesterday morning recovered the body of a free diver missing off Waikiki since 3:40pm Friday, July 11.

The diver's body was recovered at 11:03am Saturday approximately six miles south-southwest of Waikiki in an area where the water is almost 1,800 feet deep. The body was recovered on the surface of the water and search conditions were reported to be "ideal" by the cutter's crew—with winds out of the northeast at 5-10 knots and a small south swell.

Cook Islands OKs planned wind farm

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—Land-owners have given the go-ahead to survey the land being singled out as a proposed site for a wind farm project on Rarotonga.

Just over 20 landowners/representatives attended last week's meeting called by the

energy division of the Ministry of Transport.

Tereapii says he expects surveying of the land to take around four weeks. The site is an area near a ridge, inland from Club Raro. The wind farm could take up an area of around 3,600 square metres.

department at the Coast Guard's Sand Island base early yesterday afternoon.

The Coast Guard joined the search for the missing diver Friday afternoon and crews with a 41-foot motor lifeboat and the Galveston Island conducted surface searches late Saturday and Sunday morning.

The Honolulu Fire Department was notified at 3:40pm on Saturday and contacted the Coast Guard soon thereafter. (USCG)

Tereapii says they have not determined exactly how big the farm will be, and as to how many turbines will be installed. The turbines can rise up to 60 metres above the ground.

Testing for wind potential in the area has been carried out since May 2007.



COORDINATOR – ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

- Responsibilities:
- Accuracy of accounting transactions relating to payroll, accounts payable, capital acquisitions, and inventory
 - Analyze and process activity pertaining to PTI Corporate transactions in compliance with established corporate guidelines, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and Regulatory bodies
 - Coordinate accounting staff to provide accurate and timely analysis of accounting activity
 - Provide management with reports relating to company's efficiency in areas of labor, materials and services
- Requirements:
- Bachelor degree in finance/accounting required. CPA preferred
 - 5 years progressive management experience in accounting, preferably in telephony accounting
 - Experience with payroll processing and accounts payable, including enforcement of company policies and adherence to company procedures
 - Effective oral and written communications skills
 - Working experience with Microsoft Excel/Pivot Table, Microsoft Outlook and Word
 - Technical knowledge of JD Edwards Accounting software
 - Working knowledge of ABRA Suite Payroll system
 - Understanding of banking operations and knowledge of ACH network for direct deposit payroll processing and FICA transmittals
 - Knowledge of CNMI, Guam and US Federal taxes including compliance and form preparation of, but not limited to, Form 500, Quarterly withholding taxes, payroll taxes, etc.
 - Able to work in a team

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PTI
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Saipan, MP 96950
670-234-6600

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetfia Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING DENIAL APPEALS
FOR JULY 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, 2008 & AUGUST 01, 2008

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetfia Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-372	Mallari, Loida A.	4JC Corporation	July 17, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-389	Reyes, Marie Grace V.	Arago, Glicerio D.	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-609	Banayat, Rosita A.	Arizala, Jessie A.	July 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-625	Castillo, Carmencita L.	Ayuyu, Anthony	July 18, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-470	David, Eduardo O.	Baltazar, Luisito A.	July 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-524	Rizo, Lerma M.	BJF Enterprises, Inc.	August 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-339	Gonzales, Rosanna C.	Brant, Sally S.	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-380	Bernardio, Imelda A.	Castro, Susan S.	July 18, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-564	He, Zhi Zhan	Crystal Star Corporation	August 1, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-498	Naungayan, Adelina A.	Delos Santos, Elena & Lincoln	July 31, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-607	Li, Shuqiong	Dong Fong Corporation	July 24, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-316	Mendoza, Eduardo B.	ECM International Corporation	July 17, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-371	Villanueva, Mario E.	Elayda, Henry	July 17, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-341	Sobremisana, Levi P.	Elizah Gemme Store	July 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-515	Choi, In Young	Falig, Mariano M.	August 1, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-600	Cui, Shunyu	Geng Biao Corporation	July 25, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-377	Castillo, Bella D. B.	Hart, Arlene	July 18, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-497	Zheng, Shengjuan	Hen Qi Li Corporation	July 31, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-615	Camba, Jessie M.	Island Grip Services Inc.	July 24, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-608	Nimes, Edgardo D.	Jen-Marz Enterprises Inc.	July 24, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-305	Kim, Sungja	Jinrok Corporation	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-535	Lu, Dai Fang	Jones, Hongxia Shao	August 1, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-536	Cui, Chunhan	Jones, Hongxia Shao	August 1, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-492	Kim, Kyung Hoi	K & K Corporation	July 31, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-314	Huang, Ying	Kangshun Corporation	July 17, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-634	Bernardo, Kelvin G.	Keebenton Int'l. Inc.	July 24, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-293	Indalecio, Yanfang Wu	Kevins Corporation	July 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-562	Chul, Yoon	KMH Corporation	July 31, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-467	Bae, Jungbyung	Kosa Pacific, Inc.	July 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-359	Kuang, Qing	Kuang Qing Corporation	July 18, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-486	Dela Cruz, Rosario A.	Lagartus, Rolando	July 31, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-603	Liu, Weiyoung	Lani International, Inc.	July 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-338	Xu, Xingbin	LC Corporation	July 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-567	Serrano, Edison D.	Leong, Lourdes B.	August 1, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-586	Li, Fushun	Lilys Corporation	July 25, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-587	Xu, Yingshu	Lilys Corporation	July 25, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-509	Mendoza, Leila O.	Lobrio, Marie Vic M.	July 31, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-324	Wang, Dingding	M.T. Corporation	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-325	Rodriguez, Aurelia R.	Marquez, Nenita V.	July 17, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-621	Manabat, Charina P.	Matson, William P.	July 24, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-382	Ma, Qiufang	Mott, Jr., William Albert	July 17, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-383	Yao, Hua	Mott, Jr., William Albert	July 17, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-337	Alvarez, Marcos D.	Mount Everest Corporation	July 17, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-512	Valeros, Juanita A.	Mount Everest Corporation	July 31, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-605	Justo, Samuel B.	MRS3 Corporation	July 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-606	Soberano, Carolyn L.	MRS3 Corporation	July 24, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-532	Beri, Walden Q.	Muna, Arlene A.	August 1, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-294	Li, Ling	New Pacifasia Trading Inc.	July 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-573	Zhang, Nirong	Optima Karaoke	July 25, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-565	Sun, Hongmei	Palm Springs Life Ext Inc.	August 1, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-538	Razalo, Fe M.	Pangelinan, Asuncion	August 1, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 07-350	Romero, Eric A.	Pangelinan, Mariano K.	July 17, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-494	Chumjai, Chonnikan	Posadas, Segundo	July 31, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-349	Bangilan, Elsa L.	R & S Enterprises Inc.	July 18, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-525	Javinar, Dionisio G.	R & S Enterprises, Inc.	August 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-526	Bismanos, Bernabe V.	R & S Enterprises, Inc.	August 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-485	Galanza, Mylin D. L.	R Corporation	July 31, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-472	Riveral, Danilo I.	Reyes, Adora R.	July 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-616	Espiritu, Raquel S.	RGC Corporation	July 24, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-593	Engotan, Elvira O.	Sacramento, Eduardo G.	July 25, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-596	Beltran, Leonardo T.	Saipan Auto Clinic Company	July 25, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-568	Carlos, Noli D.	Salalila, Julian B.	August 1, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-569	Gomez, Milagros D. C.	Salalila, Julian B.	August 1, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-570	Jacob, Mario A.	Salalila, Julian B.	August 1, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-523	Legaspi, Joy P.	Se Young Corporation	August 1, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-489	Bautista, Pablo B.	Seman, Enrique K.	July 31, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-613	Wu, Shaofan	Sinorain Corporation	July 24, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-303	Li, Qiulan	Sunny Seas Scuba, Inc.	July 17, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-602	Tang, Wei	Tang Investments, Inc.	July 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-575	Lastimado, Antonio D. A.	Torres, Julieta B.	July 25, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-491	Naluz, Raymond M.	Tri-Hans Corporation	July 31, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-481	Fabillar, Rodolfo L.	Triple T. Corporation	July 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-170	Rueda, Rolando Jr. Dela Cruz	Wandervilla Corporation	July 17, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-558	Wang, Mengguang	Wong Sook Lan	July 31, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-353	Baquiran, Vicente B.	YCA Corporation	July 18, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-477	Sun, Maomei	Yin Jia Corporation	July 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-150	Adlaon, Quirino G.	Yue Wah Trading Corporation	July 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-468	Huang, Haixia	Zhong Run Commercial Co., Inc.	July 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.



CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR

- Responsibilities:
- Directs and coordinates the daily activities of billing, sales, quality (internal and external) and call handling efficiency of all Customer Service/Contact work force toward achieving departmental and company objectives
 - Responds to miscellaneous information requests and provides 24-hours customer access to the PTI complaint management process
 - Supervises the tri-language, multiple-shift center to ensure that all division objectives are met or exceeded with the highest customer satisfaction as a primary target
 - Perform supervisory duties that include interviewing/hiring, coaching, counseling, monitoring attendance, taking disciplinary action, preparing performance appraisals, timekeeping and promoting employee involvement
- Requirements:
- Associate's degree from an accredited college in marketing, public relations, business management or related field, or a high school diploma and two years additional related work experience
 - Five years customer contact experience
 - Knowledge of performance management and motivation techniques, leadership theories and practices, and principles and concepts of team building, strategic planning and resource management
 - Skilled in analyzing performance results to determine methods of improving service; preparing written reports, statistics and analyses; supervising employees in a labor-intensive, customer service work environment; using personal computer hardware and Microsoft software programs
 - Ability to communicate clearly, concisely and accurately with all levels of staff and customers, both verbally and in writing; supervise and motivate customer service staff; learn the job-specific aspects of various computer hardware and software; make logical and sound decisions in the resolution of difficult and complex situations; create a team environment and maintain employee morale; perform in a self-directed, hard-working, creative and forward thinking manner

Human Resource Office
PTI
P. O. Box 500306
Saipan, MP 96950
670-234-6600

PTI is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Application must be recieved by PTI Human REsources on or before July 17, 2008.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 196Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Oversight for Big Tobacco

From aspirin to zucchini, the Food and Drug Administration monitors much of what Americans consume. But cigarettes, which shorten a smoker's life by 10 years on average, have escaped FDA oversight, largely because of political pressure from Big Tobacco. That could change soon, thanks to a long-overdue bill the House is scheduled to vote on in the next few weeks that would give the agency authority to regulate the tobacco industry. Legislators should make the bill a priority so it has a chance to pass before Congress adjourns on Aug. 10.

The bill would allow the FDA to require a detailed disclosure of cigarette ingredients and to instruct tobacco companies to remove additives harmful to smokers. The bill also would place restrictions on marketing tobacco to youths, make health warning labels more explicit, eliminate descriptions such as "light" or "mild" that misrepresent the hazards of smoking and ban fruit-flavored cigarettes intended to ensnare young smokers. The bill would impose a fee on tobacco companies to fund staff positions at the FDA to oversee the industry.

The most significant obstacle facing the bill, besides Congress' desire for a summer vacation, is that it would not ban the use of menthol additives. Menthol softens the harsh taste of cigarettes, which may make it easier for smokers to become addicted. Menthols are the cigarette of choice for three-fourths of African-American smokers, compared with one in four white smokers. This is one reason black men get lung cancer at a rate 50 percent higher than white men do.

One organization, the National African American Tobacco Prevention Network, has withdrawn its support for the bill as a result. William Robinson, the group's executive director, emphasized that his organization did not oppose the legislation but said the bill discriminates against blacks. We understand Robinson's concerns and believe the FDA should consider banning menthol promptly if the bill passes. Lawmakers failed to include a ban on the additive out of political necessity; that allowed the bill to earn the support of numerous Republican legislators along with that of tobacco giant Philip Morris.

The bill will probably pass overwhelmingly in the House, but it faces a stiffer challenge in the Senate. Fifty-seven senators, including 12 Republicans, have signed on as co-sponsors. This is three votes short of the 60 needed to overcome a filibuster. If this remains so, lengthy debate and other parliamentary holdups could stall the bill; Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., has already threatened a filibuster.

The House must vote on the bill soon so it has a chance to pass in the Senate. It's been 44 years since the U.S. surgeon general reported that cigarettes are harmful, and the country shouldn't have to wait another year for independent oversight of Big Tobacco.

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BRACKINS RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
7/08

Sometimes it's better to laugh

During the past few weeks so much stupidity has been happening concerning CUC. The Governor wants to sue the United States. Gas prices are escalating daily. Food costs have skyrocketed. Ouch! Punch! Another punch! Therefore this morning I have decided not to write about the serious problems we are having. My father used to tell me when problems get big and serious, it's time to step back and laugh a bit. So let's be silly this morning. It is better than crying. I hope you enjoy some humor as we limp through the day.

A. Actual written school excuses given to teachers by students' parents:

1. My son is under the doctor's care and should not take ficial ed. Please execute him.
2. Please excuse Blance from jim today. She is administrating.
3. Dear School: Please excuse John from being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, also 33.
4. Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hit in the growing part.
5. Please excuse Sara for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
6. Please excuse Pedro from being absent yesterday. He had diah (crossed out), diahoah (crossed out), dyah (crossed out) the shits.

B. Actual bumper stickers observed on cars:

1. 1. Want a taste of religion? Bite a minister.
2. Do not tailgate. Or I will flick a Booger on your Windshield.
3. Fight crime. Shoot back.
4. End racism... Kill everyone.
5. Crime wouldn't pay if the government ran it.
6. Join the Army: Visit exotic places, meet interesting people and then kill them.
7. Jesus is coming, look busy.

C. Actual excerpts from student science exam papers:

1. Benjamin Franklin produced electricity by rubbing cats backwards.
2. Blood flows down one leg and up the other.
3. For nosebleed: put the nose much lower than the body.
4. For asphyxiation: apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.
5. When water freezes you can walk on it. That is what Christ did long ago in wintertime.
6. It is a well-known fact that a deceased body harms the mind.

D. How's this for quick thinking:

Mr. Smith was brought to Mercy Hospital (a Catholic hospital) and taken quickly in for coronary surgery. The operation went well and, as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was reassured by a Sister of Mercy, who was waiting by his bed.

"Mr. Smith, you're going to be fine," said the nun. "We need to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



covered by insurance?"

"No, I'm not," replied the man hoarsely.

"Then can you pay in cash?" persisted the nun.

"I'm afraid I cannot, Sister."

"Well, do you have any close relatives?"

"Just my sister in New Mexico. But she is a humble spinster nun."

"Oh, I must correct you. Nuns are not spinsters—they are married to God."

"Wonderful," said Mr. Smith. "In that case, please send the bill to my brother-in-law!"

E. Flashback to 1908—100 years ago—what was life like:

- a. Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.
- b. Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- c. There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved road.
- d. The maximum speed in most cities was 10 mph.
- e. The average wage in 1908 was 22 cents per hour.
- f. The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- g. A dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year.
- h. More than 95 percent of the births took place at HOME.
- i. Ninety percent of all doctors had *no college education*! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and the government as substandard.
- j. Sugar cost 4 cents a pound.
- k. Eggs were 14 cents a dozen.
- l. Coffee was 15 cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

m. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

n. Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstore.

Imagine what life will be like in another 100 years!

■■■

I hope you are enjoying the above little tidbits. But I have to become serious for a minute because what you will read below is very

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

China on display

SHANGHAI—"We are Ready" is sung with a firm resolve in a nice and easy tune on Chinese TV by a group that looks like they are ready to belt out "We are the World" as well.

It is the eve of the 2008 Summer Games of the XXIX Olympiad, an international multi-sport event that will be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China. It opens on the auspicious day August 8, 2008 (08.08.08), unarguably the most magical of all numbers in this decade in Chinese numerology. Including the 2008 Summer Paralympics on Sept. 6, more than 10,000 athletes are expected to compete in 302 events in 28 sports. China has been declaring its readiness the past eleven months!

Venues of those events will be mostly in Beijing with its now famous 91,000-seat "Bird's Nest" Stadium conceived by antiauthoritarian artist Ai Weiwei who has since protested what he considers the "fake smile" use of his creation in China's failure to own up to its shortcomings in its human rights record.

Another new Beijing landmark is the "Water Cube" for the National Aquatic Center, a stunning high-tech steel-and-membrane architectural addition to a city that has broken all kinds of construction records in preparing for this summer's events. It was also reportedly built solely with donations from overseas compatriots outside of PRC funding.

Other sites that will host the international football events (soccer to the US audience) will include Shenyang (northeastern city where a lot of the *Hangguren*—Korean Chinese—fair ladies of the karaoke Saipan nights claim to be from), Qinhuaogdao (city near one of the islands reportedly explored by China's uniting Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi for a suspected eternity potion), Tienjin, and Shanghai. Qingdao (famous German beer city) wharfs the sailing events while Hong Kong (still run by the boys of the HK Jockey Club regardless of which sovereign government is in place) barns and trots the equestrian sports.

Famed Hollywood director Steven Spielberg, who was set to advise the dramaturgy of the Olympiad's opening ceremonies, withdrew in protest of China's alleged indifference to the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, an item that the G8 Summit meeting in Hokkaido,

Toyako, Japan recently deigned to include in its crisis-laden agenda. Darfur and Tibet, rightly or wrongly, are a sore if not often cosmetic concern of the boutique crowd among our global glitterati.

With its proactive response to the disruption of the Olympic torch relay, its detailed and popular blow-by-blow responses to the foreign media exploitation of the controversial political standoff in Tibet, its heavy-handed treatment of protesting parents in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake disaster, its massive displacement of city-dwellers in the rapid development of dilapidated dwellings in the capital city, China has been true to the image of the Games' official logo, "Dancing Beijing," a stylized calligraphic character *jing*, referring to the host national and one-of-four ancient capital cities.

In a sense, China has been loosening its tight centralized grip on everything that happens within its borders. With the Games' slogan, *One World, One Dream*, it has been calling upon the world to unite in the Olympic spirit. Its choice of the five *Fuwa* as mascots of Beijing 2008, each representing one color of the Olympic rings and each of the five basic elements in traditional Chinese science, China is trying to embrace the diversity of its internal character and to show a willingness to face the complexity of its external relations.

The five *Fuwas*, dancing dolls, representing water, wood, fire, earth and air are the following: the female *Beibei*, color blue depicting the lotus and a fish to represent prosperity; the male *Jingjing*, color black of the environmentally friendly panda; the male *Huanhuan*, color red of the flame representing passion and enthusiasm; male *Yingying*, color yellow of the swift but endangered Tibetan antelope; and the female *Nini*, color green of the innocent but joyous swallow, symbol of good fortune.

China has been preparing for this Olympiad since it failed to win the host city bid for the 2000 Olympics. In a sense, it made a shift after Deng Xiaoping's suppression of the June 4 incident (known in the critical West as the Tiananmen Square Massacre) in 1989.

I made my first China visit later that year with a group of foreign diplomatic personnel and dependents out of Manila. Beijing then had only one highway ring (the old tram route) where now, there are six with the seventh reportedly planned to be built after the

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



Olympics; Shanghai's Pudding was just then a wishful overlay on bureaucrats' urban plans by the Huangpu over rice fields and fishing villages on the east side of the river.

Now, Beijing sports three forest stand rings around the city to help absorb its prodigious output of carbon monoxide; Shanghai is fast replacing, if it has not already replaced, New York as the financial and cultural center of the world. It has, at least, become the most expensive piece of real estate in the planet, with the accompanying cost and standard of living adjustment radically altering the landscape, and burdening a large portion of its dependent population.

Former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch had said that he believes that the Beijing Games will be "the best in Olympic history." It does look like it is shaping that way. In March, after a sojourn in Jiangsu Province, I left Pudong behind with a huge poster declaring to one and all how airport personnel, from mechanics to pilots, were prepared to graciously welcome the world.

On the plane over from Tokyo was a young girl whose parents, prior to establishing British citizenship, hailed from Ibadan, Nigeria, and who this year, among a horde of native English speakers, has been teaching English as a Second Language to the newly globalized *Tunggoren* (Middle Kingdom folks). It is tempting to leave PSS and join the ranks!

Now, if only I could cajole Ed Stephens to lend me his Cessna Citation X, we could get a thorough picture of China from all the venues of the Summer Olympics of 2008. For now, there is no doubt, China is ready to host the 2008 Olympiad.

State of the Judiciary Address

Editor's Note: The following is the State of the Judiciary Address delivered by CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Demapan to a joint session of the 16th Commonwealth Legislature in the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill July 11, 2008. It is being published as a series due to its length.

It is a great honor and privilege to be invited to deliver the State of the Judiciary Address to a joint session of the Commonwealth Legislature. I once again thank the leadership and members of the Sixteenth Legislature for this opportunity to better inform you and our people on the challenges and progress facing your judiciary under these trying economic times. Last year I highlighted the importance in having a dialogue with the other two political branches of our government since we all share the same goal of working for the common good of the people of this great Commonwealth.

Having said that, please allow me to inject my views on the economic realities we are now facing. Our Commonwealth is undergoing one of the most unusual economic transformations in its political history. With all due respect to our current Commonwealth leaders from all branches, the reality is that we are in a deep economic depression, the likes of which are unparalleled since we obtained self-government. The effect and toll on our islands and people are catastrophic and serious. Our people are now moving elsewhere in search for a better place to feed and house their families. The employment situation on our islands is so severe that it is more often than not the main topic of conversations everywhere. For most of

our people, the economy is a cause for concern and also the source of a lot of stress in our Commonwealth. However, despite these hard times, we cannot just give up. Together we can combine our energies to find a solution to these daunting problems. Finding the vigor to revive this economy should be the priority of all our leaders. I stand before you as a representative of your judiciary to assure you all, that in as much as you are trying your best to help us during this economic dilemma, the judiciary will always do its utmost to ensure that the rule of law and the spirit of good governance, so essential to a healthy economy, will continue to be our beacon of hope. While there are people around our islands and region that would say that our Commonwealth is down and out, I beg to differ with them. This Commonwealth, at her inception, was also full of pessimists. Skeptics said that it was impossible for the islands of Tinian, Rota, and Saipan to coalesce and work as one. They said that the interests of the different islands were so unique that this so called "Commonwealth government" was doomed to fail. While we truly respect those nay sayers and their opinions, the failure that they predicted is one thing we have not seen. In fact, throughout the more than 30 years of our Commonwealth existence, the Northern Marianas has shown the world that it could in fact stand among its equals and assume its responsibility of self government.

But the path toward self sufficiency and true self government will not come so easy. We are now learning the hard way. Outside forces, whether they are political or economic, could dampen our strong aspirations toward a full realization of self-sufficiency. We are learning now that these forces, over which we have no control,

By MIGUEL S. DEMAPAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Miguel S. Demapan is the Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.



can intervene at any time and redirect our focused energy of commitment to the welfare of our people to that of a "scattered ray of light," with not much impact on the lives of our people.

The political effects and ramifications of the events of September 11th were severely felt here on our distant island shores. After the attack on the United States, stringent homeland security laws and regulations were put in place to protect our fellow American citizens. With that came immigration and travel policies that we did not see prior to 9-11. Our allure as an easy access to warm sun and beautiful blue oceans dramatically changed into a tourist destination with lots of travel restrictions and check points. Having no control over these political forces, we can only sit back and let the power players in our nation's capitol find the best solution to the security of all of the United States and our people here in the Northern Marianas. As a member of the American political family, we have no choice but to stand in solidarity with our fellow citizens.

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SOMETIMES

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important. It is not a joke, but a genuine offer. There is a ray of hope for correcting the CUC fiasco. Read this and think about it. Be sure to ask the government about its decision.

I have in my possession information from a reputable mainland bank that is willing to finance the purchase of a 15-megawatt Caterpillar plant for \$10 million. *The CNMI will own it.* This is not a lease like the Aggreko deal! This bank will finance \$8.5 million of it at \$80,000 per month. The interest rate is a fixed 5 percent per year. *That is a savings of over \$424,000 per month over the Aggreko deal!* The Aggreko deal has no warranty. The Caterpillar has a full warranty. The Aggreko lease starts to charge the CNMI the minute the unit leaves their facility, not when it starts making electricity

(like most leases). And the best part is that the CNMI can use CIP funds for the \$1.5 million down payment on the Caterpillar unit—*because the CNMI will OWN IT!* Not lease it.

Here is a direct quote from the information I possess:

"We [the bank] can do a 48.2 MW new power plant for approximately \$35,000,000. Add the Caterpillar 15MW, and you have a 63.2 MW new plant. ...*So we can do the 15 MW Caterpillar loan now, so the plant is up to speed, and start to work on the complete replacement plant, which can be ready in about 6 months.*" (italics are mine)

There is more to this offer. A 5-megawatt waste-to-energy plant can be included which will burn all our trash, converting it into energy with no harmful emissions and uses no fuel! It is EPA-approved. With this we can eliminate the need for landfills on the three islands. It will even burn existing waste already in the landfill. Does this sound too good to be true? Well, the bank people will be here

on island next week to present this offer to the government. Watch for more details.

But the greatest part of all this is that the loan from this bank will be guaranteed by the U.S. government. This bank has been thoroughly checked out and is totally legitimate. Please ask our government what is happening to this deal.

It was offered back in January but refused. Now there seems to be a change of heart. To learn more about this, contact some of the legislators to whom I have passed this information.






As has been repeatedly stated by others and me, there is genuine help waiting to solve our problems if only we show willingness and reach out for help to the right people. Please watch what happens to this offer. I know I will be.

Have a great day and may the good fairy sprinkle some magic dust on your day to make you smile while enjoying our blue sky with its radiant sun.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼71
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼72
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼77

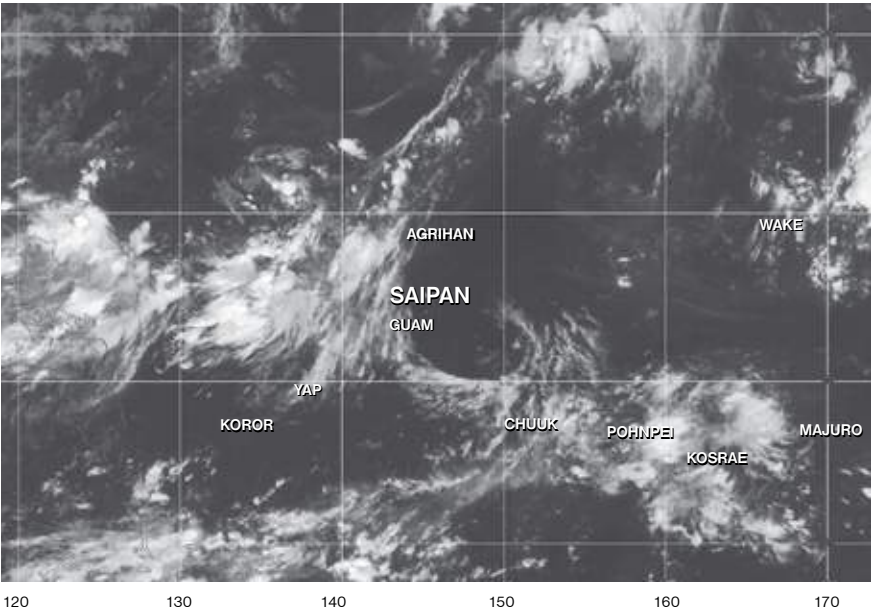
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲56 ▼45
Beijing	Showers	▲85 ▼76
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼75
London	Cloudy	▲73 ▼57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲83 ▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲63 ▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼76
New York	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼68
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼73
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲74 ▼57
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼76
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲83 ▼59
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲77 ▼59
Seoul	Showers	▲88 ▼75
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼74
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼65

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:19AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:21AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:02PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:27PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southwestward from 25N145E through a weak circulation centered near 20N137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulation are to the west and north of the Mariana Islands within an area bounded by a line from 22N134E to 25N151E to 12N143E to 10N130E back to 22N134E. A surface trough arcs northward from 2N158E to 8N160E. Convergence near and east of the trough is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Kosrae state within an area bounded by a line from 10N160E to 9N167E to eq163E back to 10N160E. A low pressure trough system curves southwestward from 25N176E to 18N169E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring northeast of Wake Island within a line from 21N165E to 23N173E to 25N177E to 17N178E back to 21N165E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:55AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:55AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:55AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:55AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:35PM	2:07AM
Tuesday	4:27PM	2:54AM
Wednesday	5:18PM	3:44AM
Thursday	6:07PM	4:37AM
Friday	6:53PM	5:31AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 4, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO 9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO 9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO 9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO 9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO 9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO 9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

512 signatures needed

Dear people of the Commonwealth:

On Thursday, July 10, 2008 I received notice from the Attorney General's Office that the petition to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature requires *512 additional valid signatures by July 21* in order for the initiative to be placed on the ballot for the November 2008 election.

What is the Open Government Act, and why is it important? The Open Government Act (Public Law 8-41) is the law that recognizes the right of the people to know what their public officials are doing on their behalf. This means that public notice with agendas must be issued for official meetings of the government at which action is taken. It also means that all public records are open to inspection by any concerned citizen who wishes to inspect such records or obtain copies.

The Open Government Act applies to all agencies, departments, boards, and instrumentalities of the government. The Act used to apply to the Legislature too, but in the early 1990s the Legislature decided to exempt themselves from the law. The Legislature continues to be exempt from the Open Government Act to this day, and as a result meetings and sessions can be called or cancelled at a moment's notice, agendas are routinely changed if they are ever even provided, bills are regularly introduced and passed on the same day without the slightest opportunity for public review, and legislators can ignore or deny citizens' requests for information without justification. Previous attempts to reapply the Open Government Act to the Legislature through the legislative process have ended in failure: legislation has been attacked, delayed, ignored, watered down, or otherwise subverted.

While the application of the Open Government Act to the Legislature may not seem like such a pressing issue to some at this time, especially in light of the severe fiscal, economic, infrastructural, and social crises we face, I strongly believe that it is precisely because of our deepening hardships that measures to stabilize the legislative process and make it more open to the public have become more crucial than ever. People need and deserve to know what their legislators are doing to tackle the many difficult issues of the day, and they have a right to be more involved in the political process.

I am convinced that it is up to the people of this Commonwealth to rise up and demand the transparency and accountability they deserve from their elected officials, and to take direct action to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature through the popular initiative process.

512 signatures by July 21—can we do it? Yes, we can. And if an open and accountable Legislature is important enough to the people to get on the ballot by November 2008, we will.

To help gather signatures for the Open Government Act initiative, please contact me at 285-3935 or by email at tinasablan@gmail.com.

Tina Sablan

House of Representatives
16th CNMI Legislature

Power to our people: A call to action

Once again, the CNMI public is being misinformed and misled by our CNMI leaders. Certain House representatives are now supporting the CUC-Aggreko contract so that it will end our power outages and supply the "much needed back-up generators so we all can enjoy 24-hour power once again."

Yes, it would be nice to have 24-hour power again. But guess what? Someone has to pay for it. And who will it be? You and me and the rest of the general public. Fool us once, shame on you. Fool us a hundred times? Shame on us...

Here are some questions that our House leaders have a hard time in answering with regard to the Aggreko contract:

■ Why won't you pressure the Fitial Administration to put together a new RFP so that we can find the most affordable back-up generators?

■ How do you know the Aggreko contract will only be for one year? Is that coming from the same people that told us that there would be no more power outages in June? Is that coming from the same people who said there was no DCM penalty clause and is now changing their tune and saying they won't pursue the penalty clause?

■ Why would you opt for high-speed generators that consume more fuel instead of going for more efficient medium-speed generators?

■ Why would you hand over a blank check to CUC after all of their lies, deception, and mismanagement?

■ How can you trust CUC to pay back a loan when they are barely capable of paying for fuel?

■ How can you support this Aggreko contract when there are better alternatives out there?

■ How can you forget to mention all of the underlying and hidden costs associated with the Aggreko contract, which ultimately will be passed on to the CNMI utility rate payers in the form of another increase in our already over-inflated CUC bill?

■ How can you completely ignore the fact that CUC will have no choice but to increase our utility rates by a minimum of 10 cents to pay for the Aggreko back-up generators if it ever decides to honor paying back its loan?

Come on already. Let's look at the very best alternatives at hand. We could buy a back-up generator for only \$3 million, yet our leaders insist on renting back-up generators. *No, we would rather rent than own, even if it means we would save money.*

We could put out another RFP and get the lowest bidder for the back-up generators. *Nope, that would make too much sense.*

We could push to have CISCO honor its \$1 million contract to repair Power Plant 2 and put that money into quickly restoring it! And we would have Power Plant 2 back online again! *Nope, that would be logical. We don't deal in logic.*

Our leaders' answer? *It would be better to bail out CUC once again and put the burden on our utility rate payers. Come on people. What's another 10 cent increase per kilowatt hour?*

Mark my words. If the CUC-Aggreko contract pushes through, we may get 24-hour power again. But we will all end up paying for it through another unnecessary utility increase. With the rising cost of world oil, would this really be prudent? Can we afford to raise

rates because of incompetence? Are you okay with this?

The increasing cost of oil is the easiest scapegoat for CUC. What they fail to mention is that a fair portion of our excessive surcharges are a direct result of mismanagement and incompetence mixed in with a dose of *biba korruption* sole-source "emergency" contracts. Could you imagine how much better off we would be right now if the Fitial administration had originally hired the most competent and qualified company to fix our generators instead of sole-sourcing and handing over a \$5 million sweetheart deal to DCM?

It is time the CNMI public gets riled up and actually do something about this injustice. We need to send a clear message to this administration that the CNMI is fed up with this abuse and we need to launch the greatest protest in the history of the CNMI led by V-O-T-E-R-S! I'm sorry to say this, but the reason why our leaders showed no concern over last year's Unity March is because it consisted mostly of non-voters, so they never felt threatened. But imagine if this time around, 95 percent of our protesters are voters... uncles, aunties, cousins, *primos*, *primas*, *kumpaires*, *kumaires*, and in-laws... Do you honestly think they would ignore us and do nothing? Hell, no! Their livelihood depends on us voters, and they will be compelled to move to action once they see such a massive protest!

We don't need to march. We just need to assemble and protest. Where should we protest? How about at Governor Fitial's office? Or CUC's doorstep? Fifteen people won't have much impact. But how about 1,500 people? Once again, do you honestly think our leaders will ignore this? They will be shaking in their shoes, and deservedly so! I am not calling for anarchy. I am calling for a peaceful protest! I am calling for a revolution, and it can only happen if you are willing to spend two hours and change the course of history. My brothers and sisters, are you willing to do this? Do you love your islands enough to make a two-hour sacrifice of your time and show our leaders once and for all that we will no longer take this abuse? We need to stand together on this issue. Can we really afford not to? Can you afford your next power increase? Would you rather remain silent and do nothing or show courage and do something that will change our destiny?

The time is to act is now! I urge every person who reads this to rise against the old ways of doing things and join us! We cannot afford another bad decision, such as this Aggreko contract, which will ultimately lead to more business closures and more disconnections because we cannot afford to pay for power.

We must do more than just change the players of politics. *We must change the game!*

Let us once and for all show our leaders who *really is in charge of the CNMI*. It is you and me and every common person who has the ability to unite and change the course of history forever! If we want a future for our children, then we must stop asking for better leadership and start *demanding* it!

Power to our people! No more lies! *No mas!*

Ed Propst

Dandan, Saipan

STATE

From Page 11

Market forces exerted from outside the Commonwealth also played a pivotal role in the abrupt decline of our economy. The Commonwealth, as you all know, is too dependent on foreign oil to fuel the engines needed to provide electricity to our people. The gate valves to increase or decrease oil production are not within our control. As a tiny jurisdiction with limited consumption capacity, our price negotiating power is largely ineffective. Again, we sit hopelessly as OPEC, speculators on the futures markets, and other major economic powers debate about the direction of oil prices on a daily basis.

Now, you might all be wondering, why is the Chief Justice speaking to us about the economy and politics of world market forces? I am speaking to you today because I want you to know that your concerns are also in the minds of everyone. These problems are on the daily agenda of our families at the dinner

tables or at friends' gatherings. These issues are also discussed in the courts, as families or couples have disputes over their ability to pay the CUC, or to find other ways to make up delinquent child support or small claim payments. These issues are also in my mind as I struggle each day, wondering how am I to address the people who might have to be let go when the time comes for me to tell them that we have reached the bottom of the government money basket. To end my point on economic and political forces, I say to all of you, our leaders, that we share your concerns and thoughts, and together by joining hands, by debating these issues publicly, we *all* could come up with an economic stimulus plan to revive our sagging economy.

I appeared before you last year at a time when we were all beginning to feel the pinch from our declining revenue. Now, I am here again, and the economy is nowhere close to a recovery. In fact, and to borrow a phrase, "the light at the end of a tunnel is actually a train heading our

way." It is my hope today to provide you with my understanding of the work we are doing within the judicial branch to assist with the Commonwealth's financial crisis. Along the way, I will highlight to you the progress we have made this past year and our plans for the future. These accomplishments would not be possible without your continued support, assistance, and understanding of the core mission of the judiciary.

Let me reiterate that we are fully cognizant and sensitive to the ongoing financial crisis befalling our Commonwealth. As we speak, I want to reassure all of you in this chamber that all of us in the judiciary — the justices, judges, and staff who are here listening today and those who are still in the courtrooms throughout our Commonwealth, know that we have a serious financial crisis in our Commonwealth government.

Let me reiterate, it should be exceptionally clear to all our people and to the leaders of the Commonwealth, that the judiciary is doing everything within

its power to carry and share the pain you are all facing today. As we struggle under this economic climate, the Judiciary is prepared to commit to this "Commonwealth Sacrifice" and will strive to do more with fewer resources, but we will not, I repeat, will not, sacrifice to the point where we will have to compromise our oath and sworn commitment to take every step necessary to ensure full access to justice for our citizens, who are also your political constituents.

This coming fiscal year, I have submitted a budget request for \$5,311,249. Although that is the necessary amount for us to effectively carry out our duties and responsibilities under the laws of both the United States and Commonwealth, I will ask that no more than 10% of the Judiciary's budget be reduced. This will mean fewer people and less resources for the upcoming year. I have made it clear that there will be no pay increases in the judicial branch. And even if we see a need to increase our operational budget, we will remain within the budgeted limit.

The budget we are requesting will be used to provide the necessary services for ongoing projects and maintenance costs. We do not request anything more than what we think we need, and will hope that what we are requesting will be sufficient, and that no current services that we provide will be left to suffer. We are now operating at the strictest expenditure level compared to other branches of government, and rest assured that we will run our operation as if it were a corporation. The savings from this frugal operation will result from delayed hiring, purchase curtailment, and the continued effective use of technology for a paperless office.

This is not new for the judiciary. We are used to operating with a low budget. Throughout my term, the judiciary has never requested a supplemental appropriation because of over expenditures or budget deficits. We have been consistent in living within our means and budget. And we live on only 2% of the total budget for the Commonwealth. This is a big challenge and we will continue to stand in

unity with you in finding ways to save this government money.

We are aware of the challenges facing our legislature. Having said that, I would like to caution this honorable body, that we are reaching the ceiling of cuts for the judiciary. Any further cuts will truly affect our core mission — to provide justice to all people before us. If the court is closed on Austerity Fridays, access to justice is not possible. The rule of law will begin to break down. Just remember, it is you the Legislature that keeps us busy down at the courthouse. You enacted these laws that you require us to interpret and apply, from serious felonies, to misdemeanor and traffic offenses. Cases range from domestic violence, substance abuse and drug trafficking, divorce and separated families, juvenile delinquents, child support to needy children, workers compensation, and all other societal issues. You have mandated us to serve all of these people because they are your constituents. And rightfully so!

To be continued.

Business

US foreclosure filings surge 53 percent

By ALAN ZIBEL
AP BUSINESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of homeowners stung by the rout in the U.S. housing market jumped last month as foreclosure filings grew by more than 50 percent compared with June a year ago, according to data released Thursday.

Nationwide, 252,363 homes received at least one foreclosure-related notice in June, up 53 percent from the same

month last year, but down 3 percent from May, RealtyTrac Inc. said. One in every 501 U.S. households received a foreclosure filing last month.

Foreclosure filings increased from a year earlier in all but 11 states. Nevada, California, Arizona, Florida and Michigan continued to have the highest foreclosure rates.

Irvine, Calif.-based RealtyTrac monitors default notices, auction sale notices and bank repossessions. More than 71,000

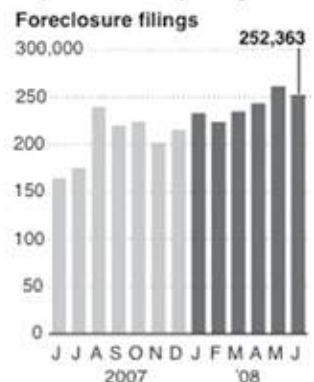
properties were repossessed by lenders nationwide in June, the company said.

While foreclosures continue to rise nationwide, efforts in some states to give borrowers more time before losing their homes appear to be working.

In Maryland, where a new law has increased the time to finalize a foreclosure to 150 days from just 15, foreclosure filings dropped by almost 18 percent from last year's levels. In Massachusetts, which last

Hitting home

Foreclosure filings in June fell 3 percent from May, but are still up 53 percent from a year ago.



year passed a similar law, filings dropped almost 3 percent.

Still, the combination of weak housing sales, falling home values, tighter mortgage lending criteria and a slowing U.S. economy has left financially strapped homeowners with few options to avoid foreclosure. Many can't find buyers or owe more than their home is worth and can't refinance into an affordable loan.

Economists project 2.5 million homes nationwide will enter the foreclosure process this year, up from about 1.5 million in 2007.

Analysts say the mortgage industry's effort to assist troubled borrowers is being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the foreclosure crisis, and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said earlier this week that many foreclosures are "not preventable," citing borrowers who "took out mortgages they can't possibly afford and they will lose their homes."



IPHONE MELTDOWN

A customer, right, makes a purchase a new Apple iPhone 3G, at New York's Apple Store, Friday July 11, 2008. The launch of Apple Inc.'s much-anticipated new iPhone turned into an information-technology meltdown on Friday, as customers were unable to get their phones working. In stores, people waited at counters to get the phones activated, as lines built behind them. A spokesman for AT&T, the exclusive carrier for the iPhone in the U.S., said there was a global problem with Apple's iTunes servers that prevented the phones from being fully activated in-store, as had been planned. Instead, employees are telling buyers to go home and perform the last step by connecting their phones to their own computers.

Oil sets new trading record above \$147 a barrel

NEW YORK (AP)—It's only July, but it might be time to start loading up on blankets and sweaters. Oil spiked to a new trading record as hostilities rise between the West and Iran - raising the likelihood that this winter's heating bills will be the priciest yet.

Crude oil's brief jump past

\$147 a barrel Friday arrived not only as the United States and Israel view Iran as a growing threat, but also as the U.S. dollar fell and worries erupted over possible supply disruptions in two other major oil-producing nations: Nigeria and Brazil.

Those factors contributed to

new all-time trading highs in crude, gasoline and heating oil.

"If you think your gasoline bills are expensive now, wait till you get your home heating bill this winter," said Stephen Schork, an analyst and trader in Villanova, Pa.

Gasoline futures also rose to a new trading record of \$3.631

a gallon before finishing at \$3.5632, up 5.23 cents.

The average U.S. retail price for gasoline was at \$4.096 a gallon, down slightly from the record \$4.108 a gallon reached on Monday, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Investors set for another tough earnings season

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors already disheartened about the growing problems of the financial sector and the soaring price of oil are facing more depressing news with the release of second-quarter earnings reports. The week will bring the first big wave of results from America's largest companies, including seven Dow Jones industrial average components and 53 members of the Standard & Poor's 500 index. Investors shouldn't expect much: Earnings for all the companies in the S&P 500 index are forecast by the rating agency to be down 10 percent

from a year earlier. Thomson Financial, which compiles forecasts from analysts at banks and brokerages, estimates the decline at 13.5 percent.

Washington, Wall St. weigh Fannie, Freddie aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wall Street and Washington wrestled Friday with how to shore up mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, two troubled pillars of the economy whose failure would deal a devastating blow to the already crippled housing market. As investors grew more convinced that only some type of government bailout could rescue the firms, Treas-

ury Secretary Henry Paulson said the focus was to support the pair "in their current form" without a takeover. The government was considering giving Fannie and Freddie access to the Fed's emergency lending program as one option to prop up the firms, said Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., citing conversations with Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and Paulson.

Bush, Democrats bicker over soaring energy prices

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush on Saturday tried to pin the blame on Congress for soaring energy prices and said lawmakers need to lift long-

standing restrictions on drilling for oil in pristine lands and offshore tracts believed to hold huge reserves of fuel. With gasoline prices above \$4 a gallon, Bush and his Republican allies think Americans are more willing to allow drilling offshore and in an Alaska wildlife refuge that environmentalists have fought successfully for decades to protect. Democrats say they are for drilling, but argue that oil companies aren't going after the oil where they already have leases. So why open new, protected areas? they ask. Democrats say there are 68 million acres of federal land and waters where oil and gas companies hold leases, but aren't producing oil.

Minimum-wage gains rattle some businesses

ALL BUSINESS

By RACHEL BECK
AP Business Writer



Rachel Beck is the national business columnist for The Associated Press. Write to her at rbeck@ap.org.

NEW YORK (AP)—If the law of averages really worked, then the upcoming hike in the minimum wage would help offset consumers' surging food and fuel costs.

A good balance, right? Don't count on it.

Just ask Phyllis Tampling why. She's an owner of Jim's Restaurant in Prattville, Ala., a 50-year-old family owned dining spot that hasn't raised the prices on its menu recently even though what it pays for supplies soars by the day.

Her cost for a case of potatoes jumped \$12 in one week's time last month to \$28. Green tomatoes went from about \$17 to \$29 a case. Then there's the higher expenses for everything from milk to meat to macaroni.

Still, a weeknight dinner at Jim's—old fashion pot roast with three vegetables and coffee or iced tea—hasn't budged from \$7.73 a meal. Same goes for the fried chicken livers, the chopped sirloin and dozens of other menu items.

Tampling hasn't passed along the higher costs to her customers because she knows that she has lots of competition nearby—10 new restaurants have recently opened within five miles of her spot, which is just outside Alabama's state capital of Montgomery.

But that doesn't mean she can continue to watch her profits evaporate, which is why her prices could start creeping up later this summer.

Come July 24, the national minimum wage will go up, from \$5.85 an hour to \$6.55 an hour, and although Tampling's staff of about 15 dishwashers and cooks makes more than that an hour, she will have to give them a raise because the minimum is going up. She might also have to boost the wages of her wait staff if the combination of their salaries and tips don't exceed the minimum wage.

Do the math to see the potential impact: If she just bumps up each of their salaries by 70 cents an hour—the size of the minimum wage raise—and they work a 9-hour shift, that would eat about \$190 a day out of her already crimped earnings.

"Once the minimum wage goes up in a few weeks, that may make it hard to not raise my prices because now everything is cutting into my profits," she said.

If Tampling raises her prices, that will cut into the disposable income of the patrons who eat her homestyle food. Then they might spend less at the local movie theater, the clothing store or the grocery store—and that ultimately will offset the gain in wages seen by her own workers.

The result: The economy doesn't get any help.

Don't read this as indictment of the rise in the minimum wage. Instead, the point is to illustrate the vicious cycle that consumers and businesses are stuck in now.

We've all heard about the woes of corporate giants like General Motors and Starbucks; their businesses face the double whammy of a weakening economy matched with soaring costs. Meanwhile, many big companies say they lack pricing power because of competition, which puts their profits under intense pressure.

Now bring those issues down to the local level. All those factors coming together at once are a toxic combination for almost everyone living and working in those communities.

The findings of the just-released monthly survey from the National Federation of Independent Businesses reflect that struggle. It showed 20 percent of small business owners cite inflation as their No. 1 problem—the highest reading since 1982 and well above the 3 percent average seen over the last 20 years.

Forty-one percent of 703 respondents reported raising prices, but they didn't boost them enough to stem the decline in earnings. Compared with the previous three months, 47 percent reported lower earnings and of those with profit drops, 41 percent cited weaker sales and 28 percent cited higher materials costs.

"Every time the owners open the 'back door' for supplies, new inventory, etc., prices and charges are higher," said William Dunkelberg, chief economist at the NFIB, a Washington-based trade group. "Those that are raising prices still aren't pushing them up enough given what the trend in profits is right now."

And now, small businesses will have to contend with the added burden of a rise in the minimum wage. For many like Tampling, the weight of it all might be too much.

Nation

Crews 'turn corner' vs Calif. wildfire

PARADISE, Calif. (AP)—Moist air and calmer winds helped firefighters make progress Saturday on a deadly wildfire in the Sierra Nevada foothills, the latest hot spot in an unprecedented fire season that has made much of California a disaster area.

Thousands of people evacuated from their homes twice during the last month began returning to Paradise for the first time since Tuesday. About 300 homes remained threatened in and around the town, down from 3,800 homes on Friday, while officials said the fire was 55 percent contained.

"For the first time, we've really turned the corner," said Kim Sone, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention. "There's more resources staffing the fire, and the weather has changed. We're getting good relative humidity and the winds are subsiding."

An evacuation order remained in effect for the nearby town of Concow, where 50 homes were razed and one person was apparently killed this week after wind-propelled flames jumped a containment line. The person's charred remains were found Friday in a burned-out home. The person hasn't been identified and a cause of death hasn't been determined.

The Butte County blaze is one of hundreds of wildfires that have blackened nearly 1,200 square miles and destroyed about 100 homes across California since a rare lightning storm ignited most of them three weeks ago.

Officials say more fires have



Firefighters Joe Valenzuela, left, uses a shovel to help pull up the hose from a steep hill to hose down hot spots as firefighter Eli Cronbach, right, tosses the hose to him while crews work on the Camp Fire, part of the Butte Lightning Complex Fires, Saturday July 12, 2008 in Concow, Calif.

been burning at one time this year than during any other period in recorded California history.

"This is truly a national disaster. The magnitude is incredible," said Daniel Berlant, a state fire agency spokesman.

U.S. Forest Service spokesman Jason Kirchner said firefighters have spent hundreds of millions of dollars fighting the blazes, and that doesn't include the economic cost to businesses, tourism and agriculture, or the impact on air and water quality.

Officials warn the state could suffer a lot more because fire danger is typically highest in Southern California in the fall, when hot dry winds could scour hillsides desiccated by a two-year drought.

"The ground is set for some really horrific events, bigger than we've seen so far," Max Mortiz, co-director of the University of California Center for Fire Research & Outreach. The conditions show a need for more research into the patterns of weather, wind and geography that could show where fires are likely to flare into infernos, he added.

About 20,000 firefighters from 41 states and Puerto Rico were fighting more than 320 active fires around the state, and more were on the way from Mexico, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has ordered 2,400 National Guard troops to join the fire crews on the ground for the first time in more than 30 years.

In Paradise, where a separate blaze destroyed more than 70 homes last month, residents returning Saturday found a town that didn't live up to its name.

Cancer claims ex-press secretary Tony Snow

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tony Snow, a conservative writer and commentator who cheerfully sparred with reporters in the White House briefing room during a stint as President Bush's press secretary, died Saturday of colon cancer. He was 53.

"America has lost a devoted public servant and a man of character," President Bush said in a statement from Camp David, where he was spending the weekend. "It was a joy to watch Tony at the podium each day. He brought wit, grace, and a great love of country to his work."



Snow died at 2 a.m. at Georgetown University Hospital, according to former employer Fox News.

Snow, who served as the first host of the television news program "Fox News Sunday" from 1996 to 2003, would later say that in the Bush administration he was enjoying "the most exciting, intellectually aerobic job I'm ever going to have."

Remote Alaska volcano erupts

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A volcano erupted Saturday with little warning on a remote island in Alaska, sending residents of a nearby ranch fleeing from falling ash and volcanic rock.

The Okmok Caldera erupted late Saturday morning, just hours after seismologists at the Alaska Volcano Center began detecting a series of small tremors.

The explosion flung an ash cloud at least 50,000 feet high, said geophysicist Steve McNutt.

Ten people, including three children, were at Fort Glenn, a private cattle ranch six miles south of the volcano on Unak Island, located in the western Aleutians about 860 miles southwest of Anchorage.

They were later picked up by the fishing boat Tara Gaila, which responded to a Coast Guard request for emergency assistance. The Tara Gaila was taking them to Dutch Harbor, the Coast Guard said late Saturday night.

The ranch residents had managed to call military police on Kodiak Island on a satellite phone before losing their connection, according to the Coast Guard.

At the same time it issued the general request for assistance from boats in the area, the Coast Guard diverted the cutters Jarvis and Mellon to head toward the scene from their patrols in the Bering Sea.

Obama: 'Little doubt' country is in recession

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Barack Obama said Saturday there is "little doubt we've moved into recession," underscoring the country's need for a second economic stimulus package, swift steps to shore up the housing market and a long-term energy policy to reduce reliance on foreign oil imports.

The Democratic presidential contender also said removing U.S. forces from Iraq won't be

"perfectly neat," yet a call from Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki for a withdrawal timetable supports his position more than the longer term presence favored by rival John McCain or his fellow Republican, President Bush.

Bush and the Arizona senator have chided Obama for proposing to withdraw U.S. forces within 16 months of taking office. McCain, a Vietnam War veteran,



Obama

has even suggested it exhibits naivete by his rival, a freshman senator from Illinois.

John McCain and George Bush both said that if Iraq, as a sovereign

government, stated that it was time for us to start withdrawing our troops, then they would respect the wishes of that sovereign government," Obama told reporters as he flew from Chicago to California.

In addition, Obama lifted the veil on his upcoming trip to European capitals and U.S. battlefronts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He said he would be accom-

panied by Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I. Despite their differing political parties, each has been mentioned as a potential Obama vice presidential running mate.

Hagel served as an Army sergeant in Vietnam and was twice wounded in 1968, earning two Purple Hearts. Reed, a West Point graduate, was a former Army Ranger and paratrooper.

2-legged dog a symbol of trapping flap

PALMER, Alaska (AP)—Andre the two-legged dog was rescued last winter when a woman noticed the animal trailing blood across a country road.

The large, friendly mutt lost most of the lower half of his left legs after getting caught in an animal trap or snare.

Now, the black and brown canine has become a symbol in Alaska for what pet owners and animal lovers say is a gruesome and growing problem: pets accidentally caught in traps and

snare traps for wild animals.

The problem, animal owners and advocates say, is increasing as more people move into and use areas of Alaska that were once wild.

But the problem is not new. Tension between dog owners and trappers has been percolating in Alaska for decades, said Cliff Judkins, chairman of the Alaska Board of Game.

"I don't know what the long-term answer is to it really. The Board of Game is caught in the middle between two groups," he

said. "This thing has been going on for a long, long time."

Karen McNaught, of Palmer, nursed Andre back to health, although she initially didn't think he would make it.

"No one had seen a dog with two legs cut off like that," she said. "The bone was sticking out on both of them. It was horrible."

Now, Andre bounces around her back yard like a Pogo-Stick. When tired, he leans against the house or the fence. The plan is to fit him with artificial legs.



Andre runs on his two good legs next to Karen McNaught at the Alaska Dog and Puppy Rescue kennel in Wasilla, Alaska Thursday, July 10, 2008.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

NATO soldier dies of wounds in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO says one of its soldiers died of wounds sustained in northern Afghanistan. NATO said in a statement that the soldier was caught in an explosion in the country's north. The alliance did not identify the soldier's nationality. It said he died Sunday. There are nearly 53,000 troops from 40 nations serving in NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka: 33 killed in new fighting

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—New fighting in Sri Lanka's civil war killed 31 Tamil Tiger rebels and two government soldiers, the military said Sunday. In the worst clash Saturday, 18 rebels and a soldier were killed in Mannar district, a military official said on condition of anonymity, citing government rules. Seven rebels and a soldier were killed in Vavuniya while six guerrillas died in Welioya, he said. Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan could not immediately be reached for comment, and it was not possible to verify the military's claims because reporters are barred from the war zone. Each side often exaggerates the casualties and damage inflicted on its enemy while underreporting its own losses.

Pakistan: Clash death toll at least 16

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A top official says the death toll following a militant ambush and shootout with security forces in Pakistan's northwest has reached at least 16. Haji Khan Afzal says 13 of the dead belong to the paramilitary Frontier Constabulary. At least three killed are militants. Officials were still trying to retrieve bodies from the Saturday clash. Afzal, the mayor of Hangu district, said Sunday that after funerals, officials will try fresh negotiations with militants. Hangu district has witnessed unrest since the recent arrest of a suspected militant leader known as Rafiuddin. The violence underscores the shaky hold Pakistan has over stretches of its northwest, where Taliban militants have found safe havens.

Cambodian journalist gunned down

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A journalist working for a pro-opposition Cambodian newspaper was killed along with his son in a drive-by shooting in the capital, police said Saturday. Khem Sambo, 47, reported on corruption and other social ills under the rule of Prime Minister Hun Sen for the opposition newspaper Moneaseka Khmer. He was riding a motorcycle with his 21-year-old son on Friday when they were each shot twice by a man who was also riding a motorcycle, Phnom Penh police Chief Yim Simony said. They died later in a hospital. "At this stage we do not have any leads yet about the motive. We are collecting evidence and witnesses who could help us in searching for the attackers," Yim Simony said.

Pakistan envoy: US not hunting for Osama bin Laden on its turf

NEW YORK (AP)—Pakistan's top diplomat said Saturday there are no U.S. or other foreign military personnel on the hunt for Osama bin Laden in his nation, and none will be allowed in to search for the al-Qaida leader.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said his nation's new government has ruled out such military operations, covert or otherwise, to catch militants.

"Our government's policy is that

and in neighboring Afghanistan, and has offered U.S. troops to strike at terror networks. Critics in Washington also have expressed frustration with the new Pakistani government's pursuit of peace deals in the region.

Bin Laden is believed to be hiding somewhere along the rugged and lawless Afghan-Pakistan border region.

Pakistan's newly elected civilian government is negotiating with tribal elders to secure peace with militants along the Afghan border in hopes of curbing a surge in violence. It is a step back from the heavy-handed tactics pursued by the previous government led by supporters of President Pervez Musharraf.

Tension between the U.S. and Pakistan have been high after Pakistan said U.S. aircraft killed 11 of its soldiers at a border post in June. U.S. officials have said coalition aircraft dropped bombs during a clash with militants.



Qureshi

N. Korea nixes resuming reconciliation talks

...but agrees to disable nuclear reactor

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Sunday rejected a proposal to resume stalled reconciliation talks with South Korea, while Seoul denounced the communist regime for the shooting death of a tourist that heightened tension between the divided nations.

North Korea's main newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, said in a commentary that South Korean President Lee Myung-bak's proposal to restart bilateral talks was not even worth considering. The paper called Lee's proposal a "deceitful" tactic to avoid taking responsibility for deteriorated ties.

The snub was another sign of strained relations between the Koreas, which intensified after a North Korean soldier fatally shot at a South Korean tourist Friday at a northern mountain resort.

South Korea has criticized the North for killing an innocent civilian, demanding that investigators from the South be allowed to probe the case.

"If an investigation into this tragic incident is not made, that will throw a cold blanket over all the people's expectations for progress in South-North rela-

BEIJING (AP)—North Korea agreed to disable its main reactor by the end of October and allow international inspections to verify its nuclear disarmament in a deal reached Saturday at the end of six-nation talks.

In exchange, the United States, China, and three other countries promised to complete deliveries of fuel oil and other economic aid to Pyongyang.

The agreement, reached after three days of talks, opens the final phase of long and tortuous efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons.

"The parties reach an important consensus," said China's envoy, Wu Dawei, as he read out the group's press communiqué at the end of the meeting.

The envoys from the six nations - which also included South Korea, Japan, and Russia - agreed that a verification procedure would include a team of experts who will visit North Korean nuclear facilities, review documents and interview technical experts.

The agreement also allows the nuclear inspectors to call on the International Atomic

Energy Agency to help in verification.

Technical details of the verification process still need to be hashed out by a working group, but the six nations hope to agree on specific steps by early September, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said.

"We would like the protocol to be reached within 45 days and, secondly, to begin verification within 45 days. We're anticipating that, and we don't see any obstacles," Hill told reporters after the talks.

tions," said the South Korean Unification Ministry in a statement. The ministry is responsible for ties with North Korea.

The South Korean government suspended tours by South Koreans to the resort pending an investigation.

However, the North has rejected cooperating in a probe, saying the 53-year-old housewife ignored a soldier's warning and tried to flee. The North's tourism

authorities demanded South Korea apologize for halting tours.

Tensions between the Koreas have flared since Lee, a pro-U.S. conservative, took office in February. His government has criticized human rights abuses in North Korea and has been skeptical of offering unconditional aid to the impoverished country, a sharp departure from the previous decade of liberal South Ko-

rean leaders.

Lee, however, said in a speech to parliament Friday that his government was willing to consult on how to implement previous accords that his liberal predecessors reached with communist leader Kim Jong Il at summits in 2000 and 2007. Lee had earlier said he would review the accords to determine whether they are worth implementing.

PURIFICATION RITES

Participants carry a portable shrine into the sea during an annual summer festival of a purification rite off the shore of Enoshima beach in Fujisawa, near Tokyo, Sunday, July 13, 2008.

AP



China executes Uighurs for terrorist links

BEIJING (AP)—China has executed two ethnic Uighur men and imprisoned another 15 for alleged terrorist links, a U.S.-funded radio station reported Saturday.

Radio Free Asia reported that the Kashgar Intermediate Court in the restive western region of Xinjiang sentenced two men to death on Wednesday and then executed them after the public

trial in Yengi Sheher county, citing Uighur sources and a local official. The men were identified as Mukhtar Setiwaldi and Abduweli Imin.

Three other Uighurs were given two-year suspended death sentences while the remaining men were sentenced to jail terms ranging from 10 years to life, the radio quoted the sources saying.

Western Xinjiang is home to the minority Uigur ethnic group, and Uighur extremists have waged a low-intensity struggle against Chinese rule for decades.

The U.S. government-funded RFA said the 17 men were charged as members of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement, a militant separatist group that Beijing, as well as Washington,

claims has links to al-Qaida.

An official who answered the phone at the Kashgar court confirmed that multiple sentences, including "two or three" executions, were handed down during trials on July 9, but he had no details about what the men were charged with or whether they were linked to terrorist activities. He would not give his name.

World

Pope Benedict XVI arrives in Australia

By **ROHAN SULLIVAN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI arrived in Australia on Sunday, saying he wants to use his visit to raise awareness about global warming and address the crisis of clergy sexual abuse.

Benedict suggested to reporters on the flight from the Vatican that he would express regret about abuse by priests, though victims' groups are demanding he go further and make a direct formal apology.

The clergy abuse scandal is a serious note in the pope's 10-day visit to Australia, his first, during which he will join the World Youth Day festival that has attracted more than 200,000 people.

Benedict, 81, flew more than 20 hours from the Vatican to touch down at a military air base on Sydney's outskirts. He waved briefly as he climbed down the plane's stairway and was greeted on the tarmac by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and other church and government officials.

Pope Benedict XVI, second right, and Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd wave as they walk across the tarmac at Richmond Air Base on the outskirts of Sydney, Sunday, July 13, 2008. Benedict is in Australia for the July 15-20 World Youth Day festival.

He was driven to a retreat in Sydney where he will stay out of the public eye until the youth festival formally begins Thursday.

During the flight, Benedict told reporters he would work for "healing and reconciliation with the victims" of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic clergy in Australia "just as I did in the United States."

At the start of a U.S. visit earlier this year, Benedict said he was "deeply ashamed" of the abuse scandal and pledged to work to make sure pedophiles do not become priests.

Clergy abuse support groups in Australia have demanded that Benedict apologize during his visit for the abuse they suffered. The exact number of victims of clergy abuse in Australia is not known, though activists say it is



WORLD BRIEFS

Hezbollah to Israel: Missing airman believed dead

JERUSALEM (AP)—Lebanon's Hezbollah has told Israel it does not know what happened to an airman missing for more than two decades but it believes he is dead, Israeli officials said Saturday. The report could clear the way for a prisoner swap between the two foes. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert received the Hezbollah report Saturday on the fate of Ron Arad, an airman missing since he was captured alive after his fighter jet went down over Lebanon in 1986. The report was part of an Israel-Hezbollah deal in which Israel would hand over Samir Kantar, a Lebanese man serving multiple life terms for a 1979 attack in Israel's north; four Hezbollah prisoners; and dozens of fighters' bodies.

France: Syria, Lebanon to upgrade ties

PARIS (AP)—France's president said Saturday that Syria and Lebanon will open embassies in each other's countries for the first time. But Syria's leader cautioned there was still work to be done before that could happen. Syria and Lebanon have not had full-fledged embassies in each other's countries since Lebanon became independent in 1943 and Syria in 1945. Syrian President Bashar Assad said last month that establishing diplomatic ties with Lebanon would be possible if a national unity Cabinet were formed in Beirut between the anti-Syrian parliamentary majority and the opposition led by Syrian ally Hezbollah. The unity government was formed Friday after weeks of haggling.

Slow-moving hurricane hovers near Bermuda

HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP)—Slow-moving Bertha barely clung to its hurricane status as it hovered near Bermuda late Saturday, but forecasters said it could pick up speed and still deal a glancing blow to the island. The Bermuda Weather

Service issued a tropical storm warning as Bertha's outer bands were expected to brush the island in the coming days. Most tourists chose to hang out in pools and walk along the beach instead of battle the stronger surf and rip currents along Bermuda's southern coast. Signs have been posted announcing that beaches are closed. Lifeguards at Horseshoe Beach blocked the shoreline with bright red tape and turned tourists away. Many lingered, however, taking pictures of the crashing waves.

2 people found dead at music festival in Norway

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Two people were found dead Saturday at a music festival in southern Norway and six others were hospitalized, police said. The victims were found in and near a bus at the Norway Rock Festival in Kvinesdal village, 270 miles (430 kilometers) southwest of Oslo, Agder Police District chief Asbjørn Enoksen said. Preliminary hospital reports indicated carbon monoxide poisoning could have been a cause, Enoksen said. The six found alive were taken by helicopter and ambulance to local hospitals, he said, adding that some of them were unconscious. All of the victims were believed to be Norwegian citizens in their 20s and 30s, he said.

Guards storm Dublin prison, 7 injured

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)—Ireland's prison service says guards armed with clubs and riot shields stormed a recreation area at Dublin's main prison where 50 inmates had barricaded themselves for two hours. The Irish Prison Service says two prisoners and five guards were wounded but none critically. One guard was hospitalized with serious injuries to the face and teeth. Inmates at the overcrowded Mountjoy Prison had been protesting Saturday against new measures meant to deter drug trafficking in the complex. The Victorian-era prison is designed to hold 420 prisoners but has nearly 600 inmates.

in the thousands.

Bernard Barrett, a spokesman for the victims' group Broken Rites, said Benedict's comments did not go far enough.

"He made some general remarks about regret to reporters and that's not good enough," he told Australian Broadcasting

Corp. radio. "We want action, not words."

"The pope must apologize for the way his Australian bishops have covered up sexual abuse, the pope must tell his Australian bishops to stop blocking victims' access to justice in the civil law courts," he said.

On the plane, Benedict acknowledged the church in the West was "in crisis" but insisted it was not in decline. "I am an optimist" about its future, he said.

Asked about global warming, the pope said there is a need to "wake up consciences" about the issue.

Iraq handing out cash on the streets

BAGHDAD (AP)—It is a politician's dream: Handing out cold, hard cash to people on the street as they plead for help. Iraq's prime minister has been doing just that in recent weeks, doling out Iraqi dinars as an aide trails behind, keeping a tally.

The handouts by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and a handful of other top officials are authorized - as long as each goes no higher than about \$8,000, and the same people don't get them twice. Aides say they are meant merely to ease the pain a

bit, and are motivated by a belief that better conditions will lead to more security.

The cash handouts are just one small—if eye-catching—part of a major investment push this summer by Iraq's government. The aim is to rebuild basic services and jumpstart Iraq's damaged economy by quickly distributing as much of the country's glut of oil revenue as possible.

U.S. officials and a fed-up American public are urging exactly that - for Iraq to spend

its own money, not America's, to rebuild the country now that violence has eased.

Yet the new Iraqi effort runs a high risk of failure: The government is disorganized, fears of favoritism remain and the shadow of corruption haunts every step.

"Money is not a problem," al-Maliki told a recent gathering of tribal chiefs in the southern city of Basra, after government forces had defeated Shiite extremists there. "But we must put it in honest hands to spend."

Liberia president slams Zimbabwe vote

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—All Africans must speak out about injustices in places like Zimbabwe, Liberia's leader said Saturday during a speech honoring former South African President Nelson Mandela.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf devoted her speech, a week before Mandela's 90th birthday, to painting an optimistic picture of Africa's future.

But the Liberian president said she could not ignore current troubles, and that it was her duty to "express my solidarity

with the people of Zimbabwe, as they search for solutions to the crisis in their country."

The remark earned applause from Mandela and a crowd of several hundred gathered in a community hall in Soweto, the famed Johannesburg township.

Sirleaf acknowledged that Liberia was far from southern Africa, and did not share this region's history of British colonial rule.

"But I am, I hope, part of the new Africa; an Africa rooted in many of the values demonstrated by you, President Mandela,"

she said. "In that Africa, all Africans have a responsibility for our collective future. It is, therefore, my and our responsibility to speak out against injustice everywhere."

She offered her own country in West Africa as a cautionary example.

"In 1985, Liberia held a sham election that was endorsed by Africa and the world," she said. "Thirty years of civil war and devastation followed, with thousands dead and millions displaced. It need not have happened."

Health & Fitness

Up against boredom? We can work on that

By VICKY HALLETT
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Q. I've recently changed gyms. However, I'm discovering the new gym and I am a poor fit. I need more variety. At my former gym, I had access to a pool, indoor running track and group classes as well as the usual assortment of cardio machines and weights. At the new gym I'm left with only the (admittedly excellent selection of) cardio machines and weights. I'm not able to do much cardio outside due to exercise-induced asthma. Do you have any tips for staying motivated on a cardio machine for the next nine months, until my contract expires? Staring at a wall for 30 minutes at a time while I'm sweating my tuchis off is starting to get irritating and uninspiring.

A. Sounds like you and your gym could use some couples therapy, and I happen to know just the guy to help: Kevin Owens, who teaches Treadmill Race Training at the Tysons Corner (Va.) Equinox. He says he can convert anyone into a machine maniac. "Most people who exercise indoors are bored out of their minds, but of course I know how to make it interesting," he boasts.

The key, he explains, is to plan your workout before you punch in your age and weight. Otherwise, you're likely to take it too easy, or push full throttle right away and poop out. "I'll write it down on a piece of paper and say this is what I'm going to do," he says. "Plop it in front of you. You're more likely to stay true to your goal that way."

So what should those goals be? Well, Owens starts with ground rules. His students always need to keep their treadmills at a one-degree incline or higher, and always keep moving. Then he gives them intervals to struggle through. "You want to be tired and keep your heart rate up, but you don't want to be over-stressing your body," he says. He might start students



Most people who exercise indoors are bored out of their minds, but you can also make it interesting.

at 70 percent of their top pace for two minutes, followed by one minute of recovery, for five sets. The bulk of the workout is generally more intense: Think longer spurts at a faster pace or upping the incline while trying to stay at a quick clip.

If you're better buddies with an elliptical or a bike, the same interval tricks apply. Keep changing up the challenge and you'll forget all about that wall.

Owens has a bonus idea that'll get you using those weights, too: Break up your cardio into chunks. Run for six to eight minutes, then hop off to do abs exercises. Then run again, until you break for another exercise set. It'll keep your heart rate up, pump your muscles and, best of all, limit excessive wall-staring.

Q. Can you suggest weight resistance exercises that will work my legs and butt but won't stress my knees? I'm 44, and my knees just can't handle squats and lunges anymore. I do cardio work three to four times per week and weight training three days per week.

A. You might want to swear whenever you squat, but it's not quite time to swear off squats, advises Michael Lin, co-founder of Verve Health & Fitness in Arlington, Va. After all, the squat is a movement most people need to perform in daily life — and even to use the bathroom in certain foreign countries.

"It's a matter of making sure the weight is on your heels, not your toes, and that spinal alignment is straight," he says. "The better you understand that, the more comfortable your knees will stay." To keep your training knee-friendly, he suggests you lean against a Swiss ball pushed to the wall and then slide down it as you sink.

But certainly there are tons of other exercises for your lower body that won't aggravate your joints. How about leg swings or lifts to the front, side and back? You can do them on a multi-hip machine or with ankle weights; even just the weight of your leg can be exhausting with enough reps.

As long as you're not having shoulder woes, too, Lin recommends side plank leg lifts. Prop

yourself on one side with your bent elbow and knee, and then raise the other leg, which should be straight to get the most benefit. To make it a bit trickier, try the pose with your foot instead of your knee. Advanced exercisers can kick it up one more notch by switching out their elbow for their hand.

And here's one more that may look silly but feels serious. Take a circular resistance band, or just tie a regular one into a small loop, and slip it around your ankles. "The trick is not to put your feet together, because then you lose the tension," Lin says. Then start shuffling in every which way to feel the burn in your inner and outer thighs and glutes.

Q. Back in the day (okay, way back in the day) I was a pretty fair and fast runner. I kind of have a bug to find some kind of track team or events for folks my vintage (currently 44).

A. There's a term for folks like you in the running world. No, it's not "old fogey." It's "master,"

which encompasses anyone over the ripe age of 35. That includes Bob Platt, 56, the publisher of Race Packet (a magazine and Web site dedicated to running in the Washington area) and the Virginia rep of the Road Runners Club of America.

And he has plenty of ideas for bringing you back into the fold. But first, a warning: "People who are very competitive often can't stand the idea that they're not running as fast as they used to," says Platt, who has friends who've taken up other sports or events to lessen the blow. But he sticks with his longtime pastime. "Although we resent getting passed by young whippersnappers, we're doing the best we can," he says.

What's more, you can even get prizes for doing the best you

can. There aren't many masters-only races, but virtually every 5K, marathon and everything in between nowadays offers age-group awards. Want to get a better sense of how you stack up against the overall winner? Plug your info into the tables created by World Masters Athletics to get your equivalent score if you were 20 years younger.

As for finding a team to join, that's the easy part. While masters-only teams are theoretically rare, most runners tend to be in their late 30s or 40s. Platt, a member of the D.C. Road Runners, says they're constantly brainstorming for ways to get 20-somethings more interested in old-fashioned jogging. In your age bracket, with many running clubs, you may even feel like a whippersnapper yourself.

FROM START TO FITNESS

Are children too young for a trainer?

By ANDREA RENEE WYATT,
M.S.S., C.S.C.S.
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: This year my children were not required to have physical-education classes year-round in school. Since this change, I have seen a dramatic drop in their activity level and energy, and I am worried about them becoming overweight. They need motivation to exercise, and I am thinking of hiring a trainer to work with both of them. At ages 8 and 10, do you think this is too early to hire a personal trainer? If so, what else can I do?

A: The requirements for physical-education classes have dropped at many schools throughout the county in recent years. Inactive children, along with improper nutrition, are cited for the rising rates in childhood obesity. Encouraging your children to be more active is a necessity.

Finding ways to keep your children active can be a challenge; however, now is a great time to get help, as there are many organized programs available for children.

Hiring a certified personal trainer can be a great choice for anyone, not just adults. Remember that a personal trainer is not someone who is just there to help adults lose weight or body builders get bigger. They are available to help you reach your fitness goals no matter what your age. The trainer will be able to develop a fitness program that is age-appropriate and tailor it to the likes of your child. At ages

8 and 10, this likely would include fun movement activities and might include other exercise equipment at the trainer's discretion.

Most fitness facilities offer the services of certified personal trainers. Ask them if they are certified and if they have experience working with children. Not all personal trainers have such experience. It is important to know that the trainer you choose has the patience, passion and skills needed to motivate, encourage and safely train children.

Group training programs are also popular, and include children within the same age range working out together. This can promote a fun and comfortable environment for the children, as they are moving and staying in shape while not feeling alone or isolated. You might find these programs offered through fitness facilities, local recreation departments and other organizations throughout the community.

The need to combat childhood obesity has sparked an increase in youth exercise programs throughout country. Whether with the use of a personal trainer or through a youth program, remember that finding a way to keep your children active and moving is a necessity.

Always consult a physician before beginning an exercise program. If you have a fitness or training question, write to Andrea in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

The difference between colds, allergy

By FRANCES STEAD SELLERS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

It's hard to tell sometimes what makes your child feel under the weather, particularly in the early summer when there is plenty of pollen around, and children are also in and out of pools and air conditioning. Both colds (caused by viruses) and allergies result in runny noses and watery eyes and can give children a case of the sneezes. But there are ways to tell the two conditions apart:

■ The discharge from aller-

gies is typically clear, while a cold often ends up with thick yellow or green discharge.

■ You rarely get body aches or a fever from an allergy.

■ A cold is contagious.

■ Once the diagnosis is made, an allergy can be treated with antihistamines; your child can also be tested to identify the source of the allergy.

Seeing stars? Fast action could save your sight. Get to an ophthalmologist quickly if you see any of the following signs,

which could be a signal of a detachment or tear in your retina:

■ Floaters that drift in your vision as your eye moves. They may look like dots, veils, cobwebs or strings. Pay particular attention to a sudden increase in the number of dark floaters.

■ Flashing lights, especially in peripheral vision. They may ripple or flicker.

■ A shadow or curtain that comes down across your field of vision.

You've broken out in a rash

Life & Style

Dissolving the Distance with John Jenkins

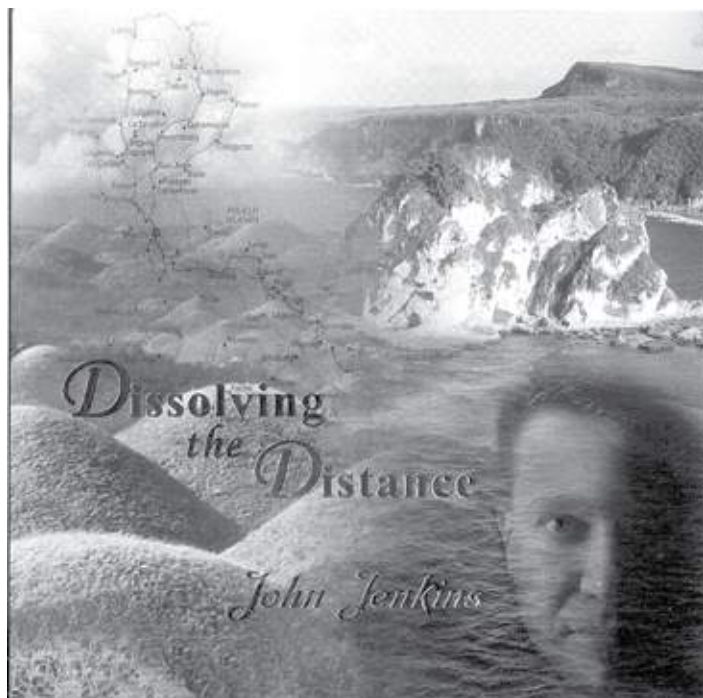
By **MARCONI CALINDAS**
CORRESPONDENT

John Jenkins, a familiar figure in the local music scene, has completed his first digitally mastered and professionally recorded album, *Dissolving the Distance*, which contains nine tracks—all his original compositions.

The album includes the award-winning *I'm Missing You*, a finalist and winner of Best Video during the first Saipan Pop Music Festival held late last year.

Jenkins composed and sang two songs in the album in English and Tagalog—*Magtiyaga Hanggang sa Huli* and *Love Speaks Every Language*. Other songs in the album include: *My Filipina Girl*, *Just As You Are*, *In the Wilderness of Questions*, *My Soul is Not for Sale*, *Daffodils* and *Dissolving the Distance*.

"The album tells a story from the first song to the last song," Jenkins said, adding that the challenges and difficulties of long distance relationships inspired him to write the songs. "The in-between songs deal with multicultural relationship that is looking above and be-



yond language barriers and cultural differences."

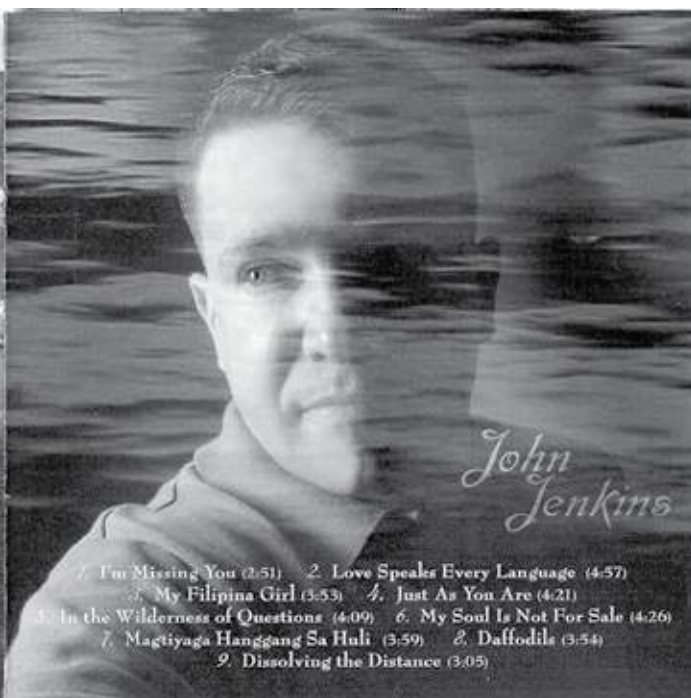
The album conveys a common message: "It is love that transcends all challenges," he said.

He said the first four songs in the album are his personal favorites. "I think I just like the arrangements and I have been getting a lot of positive feedback about them from people," he added.

These songs have already been hitting the local airwaves such as KZMI and Magic 100 FM, which have been receiving requests for Jenkins' songs from listeners.

A different tune

Jenkins' style could best be described as a hodge-podge of ballad, jazz, pop music and even gospel. "It's a little bit of everything," he said.



All songs in the album were professionally recorded in the Philippines with the help of Manila's veteran composers and arrangers. Jenkins said he was extremely grateful that renowned composer Vehnee Saturno lent a hand in recording the music. He was also impressed with the musicality of arranger Elmer Blancaflor during production work.

"I just hope that with my music, I can inspire people, especially with my lyrics. I believe the lyrics of my songs are all thought-provoking and very uplifting," he said.

Jenkins said he wanted to come up with an album that was totally different from what the community is used to hearing on

the radio. Pop music right now is mostly dark and cynical, he said, so his music aims to instill hope and a positive outlook.

Passion to share knowledge

Jenkins considers Saipan his second home now. Eleven years ago, he couldn't even imagine traveling hundreds of miles away from Boulder, Colorado, to a place in the middle of the Pacific just to teach.

He first came to Saipan as an educator, teaching at the William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa. After six years he opted to pursue a tutorial career when he passed his Teaching English as Second Language Certification, which

he completed through distance education via the Seattle Pacific University.

After a year, he went back to the Public School System and taught at the San Antonio Elementary School. Last year he joined the roster of premier teachers at the Northern Marianas College School of Education.

"Even with the hardship on the island, I've loved being here. I have enjoyed what I'm doing. I really like working and helping future teachers in the CNMI," he said.

The grateful artist

Jenkins said there are so many people to acknowledge for making his dream of recording an album a reality. He said this project wouldn't have made it without the inspiration and encouragement of his wife, Divina, to whom he dedicated all his songs.

He said he is also grateful to Brad Ruszala for helping promote and market the album. He also thanks his peers and colleagues such as Dean Papadoupoulos and the media for their support.

"I really appreciate the CNMI people for the inspiration as well. This album is my gift to them," he said.

Jenkins' *Dissolving the Distance* album is now available for \$15 at the Dolphin Wholesale in San Jose, Joeten Supermarket Susupe, 360 Revolving Restaurant, Oche's Garapan, Shirley's Restaurants, and at the Café at the Park.



Bon Jovi performs during a free concert celebrating Major League Baseball All-Star Summer on Central Park's Great Lawn Saturday, July 12, 2008 in New York.

Bon Jovi performs for thousands in Central Park

NEW YORK (AP)—Bon Jovi rocked Central Park on Saturday.

The rock group gave a free concert on the park's Great Lawn, delighting tens of thousands of fans who sang along with the lyrics on a glorious summer evening.

The New Jersey rockers' opened with "Livin' on a Prayer" and belted out songs including "Born to be my Baby," "Lost Highway," and "Runaway."

New York City officials gave away 60,000 tickets for the concert. Some 50,000 people were expected to attend. The free tickets were reportedly being hawked by scalpers on eBay for as much as \$1,500 a pair.

Hundreds of fans lined up early - in some cases as many as six hours before the show's 8 p.m. start.

For some, it was a family affair. Josephine Ribaud-McGrane, 34, of Queens, arrived at 1 p.m. wearing a well-worn Bon Jovi concert T-shirt she bought in 2006. She came with her mother, 12-year-old son, 8-year-old daughter, an adult sister and her best friend.

"They've gotten me through a lot of rough times," she said, adding that her iPod is stocked with 200 Bon Jovi songs. "I don't think there's a song that I don't like."

The show was billed as a prelude to the Major League

Baseball All-Star game at Yankee Stadium. The game on Tuesday will mark the final season at the Bronx ballpark. A new stadium is being built.

The band joins other greats who have performed on the Great Lawn, including Paul Simon, Barbra Streisand and Pope John Paul II. Garth Brooks also played the park's North Meadow.

Bon Jovi performs at Madison Square Garden on Monday and Tuesday as part of its "Lost Highway" tour. Those shows require paid admission.

The quartet has been rocking for more than two decades and has sold more than 100 million records worldwide.

Brolin, others in film crew arrested

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP)—Actors Josh Brolin and Jeffrey Wright, along with members of a crew filming an Oliver Stone movie, were arrested during a bar fight Saturday morning, police said.

Shreveport police Sgt. Willie Lewis said Brolin, Wright and five others were arrested just after 2 a.m. at a club called the Stray Cat bar.

A call to deal with a rowdy patron drew interference from other patrons, Lewis said.

The Times of Shreveport reported that Brolin was booked and posted \$334 cash bond to be released. Police could not say Saturday night whether he or the others had been released. The paper said they are part of the crew on an Oliver Stone film, "W," about President George W. Bush.

A call to Brolin's publicist was not immediately returned Saturday night.

"W" began filming in May in Shreveport. Brolin plays President Bush and Wright plays former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The cast also includes Eliza-



This Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008 file photo shows Josh Brolin as he arrives for the 80th Academy Awards, in Los Angeles.

beth Banks as first lady Laura Bush, Ellen Burstyn and James Cromwell as the elder Bushes and Thandie Newton as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Brolin appeared in three films last year, "In the Valley of Elah," "American Gangster" and "No Country for Old Men," which won the best-picture Oscar.

Wright won a Tony Award for "Angels in America" on Broadway and a Golden Globe for the same role in the television miniseries. He also has appeared in "Syriana," "Ali" and "Casino Royale."

"W" is Stone's third presidential film, following "Nixon" and "JFK." He also directed the Vietnam sagas "Born on the Fourth of July" and "Platoon," which won four Oscars including best picture and director.

The Academy Award-winning director only began shopping his script for financing in January, but has quickly captured the interest of investors and Hollywood.

Stone has said the film, which will focus on the life and presidency of Bush, won't be an anti-Bush polemic, but, as he told Daily Variety, "a fair, true portrait of the man. How did Bush go from being an alcoholic bum to the most powerful figure in the world?"

Doctor: Angelina Jolie gives birth to twins



AP
American actress Angelina Jolie and American actor Brad Pitt arrive for the premiere of the film "Changeling" at the 61st international Cannes film festival, on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

PARIS (AP)—The Brangelina twins are here: Angelina Jolie has given birth to a girl and a boy.

The obstetrician who delivered the twins, Dr. Michel Sussmann, told The Associated Press that the actress, the babies and Jolie's partner, actor Brad Pitt, "are doing marvelously well."

Sussmann said Jolie gave birth to a boy, Knox Leon, and a girl, Vivienne Marcheline, by Cesarean section on Saturday night.

He told the AP on Sunday morning

that the boy weighed 5.03 pounds and the girl 5 pounds.

Pitt was there during the operation, said the doctor, who delivered the twins at the seaside Lenval hospital in Nice in southern France.

"Everything is going well," said Sussmann. "The mother, the babies, the father are doing marvelously well."

He said the Cesarean was moved forward from its originally planned date "for medical reasons" so that the babies could be born "in the best conditions." Sussman did not give details.

He said Jolie is expected to stay in the hospital for a few more days.

Jolie and Pitt already have four children: Maddox, 6; Pax, 4; Zahara, 3, and Shiloh, 2.

Jolie had checked into the hospital late last month to rest and be monitored by her doctor before the birth.

Before that, she, Pitt and their children had moved into a large estate, Miraval, in the French hamlet of Correns, which is just a short helicopter ride from the hospital. Correns is about 60 miles from Nice, a resort on the Mediterranean.

Though the lenses of the world's paparazzi had been trained on maternity wards across the French Riviera, Jolie managed to slip unobserved into the clinic, reportedly arriving by helicopter on the hospital's rooftop helipad.

Pitt was seen coming and going after Jolie's hospitalization became public.

The first photos of the new twins are expected to fetch millions of dollars.

PBS keeps 'King Lear' nude decision under wraps

BEVERLYHILLS, Calif. (AP)—Ian McKellen's acclaimed performance in "King Lear" is coming to PBS, but a public TV executive was coy Saturday about whether his on-stage nude scene will be exposed on air.

PBS President and CEO Paula Kerger, who saw the play during its brief run in New York, said she was impressed by the production and recalled thinking, "This is the kind of thing people should have a chance to see."

When Kerger told a Television Critics Association meeting that the play had been filmed for PBS and would air next season, she was asked about

McKellen's full-frontal nudity and whether it would be acceptable for public television.

"Let's talk about this in January," Kerger said, attempting to boot the issue to the next scheduled meeting of the critics' group.

Pressed to address the question, she replied: "It's what I think about it and what the FCC will allow," a reference to the Federal Communications Commission that regulates broadcast channels.

Broadcasters have run afoul of FCC decency standards before, facing fines for profanity and, in the case of Janet Jackson's 2004 Super Bowl show

"wardrobe malfunction," nudity.

So what did Kerger personally think of the nude scene with McKellen?

"It's powerful. His entire performance is quite powerful," she said.

The Royal Shakespeare Company's production, directed by Trevor Nunn, ran at Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater last fall.

The 69-year-old McKellen's performance as Lear was lauded by The Associated Press for "expertly capturing the man's physical and mental decline." The review noted that McKellen shed not only his sanity but also, at one point, his trousers.

Bateman enjoys his ascending view

By PAUL BROWNFIELD
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—On a recent weekday morning, Jason Bateman was easily the most recognizable actor among the actors and wannabe actors hiking in the canyons above Hollywood. The former child TV star ("Silver Spoons") and late-teens cute-boy ("The Hogan Family") had with him Goose, a feisty French bulldog, and Dwayne, a mel-lower Brussels Griffon.

Long the younger and lesser-known of the Bateman siblings (his sister, Justine, was Mallory on the '80s sitcom "Family Ties"), Jason, at 39, is enjoying a run of success that has separated him from that other canyon subspecies, the bare-chested unemployed actor dude hitting the loop hard, keeping his body trim for another pilot season.

Born in Rye, N.Y., with stops in Boston and Salt Lake City, Bateman started acting at 10, having moved to Los Angeles with his father, Kent, a writer and director who also ran a postproduction house. By his account, his youth was divided between school and the set, with the set often winning out.

Bateman, as a result, has a high, intuitive showbiz IQ. On-camera, he tends to be a filter for empathy, Tom Hanks-like in his ability to convey the audience is in relatable hands.

Off-camera it means he can spot Hollywood's grooming habits.

"There's nothing hetero about a shaved chest," he observed, as a well-toned physique went bounding past. "Some actors I guess have to look at their physique or the possibility of their shirt having to come

off at times. ... I haven't had to do that or have a love scene."

These days, Bateman is enjoying a domestic existence. He's married (his wife, Amanda, is the daughter of singer Paul Anka), and the father of a 1 1/2-year-old girl, Francesca. And professionally, he's never been more in demand. Suddenly, he is showing up in all the right places and hitting all the right notes, that former boyish entitlement having matured into understated comedic bite.

Last year, Bateman was pitch-perfect as the conflicted adoptive father trading punk rock and slasher movie references with Ellen Page in the Oscar-winning indie film "Juno." And now, in the Will Smith action-comedy "Hancock," he's exhibiting similarly grounded comedic chops, playing another slouchy male.

Whereas Hancock (played by Smith) boozily saves/destroys L.A., Bateman's character, Ray, is almost preternaturally nice, a suburban dad pitching big-money corporations on a humanistic global ad campaign. When Hancock saves his life—and destroys city blocks in the process—Ray invites him over for dinner. It's "spaghetti madness" night, Ray tells him with subtle irony.

In a way, "Hancock" riffs on Bateman's Michael Bluth character on "Arrested Development"—that voice of reason amid the insanity, insisting on civility where none otherwise exists. "Arrested," narrated by Ron Howard and produced by Howard and Brian Grazer's company Imagine Entertainment, was a bracing antidote to the typical family sitcom—dizzily referential and shot with hand-held cameras to capture the madness of a dysfunctional

family whose figurehead father, played by Jeffrey Tambor, was in prison.

Bateman himself will tell you he was "a tired piece of meat" as recently as 2003, when he was cast as the mostly normal, if somewhat tightly wound and self-righteous son on "Arrested." But presto change-o—his career was reinvented with an edge.

More so than "Juno," "'Arrested' did everything for me," he said of the series

that ran on Fox for three critically acclaimed but ratings-starved seasons, from 2003 to 2006, during which it won an Emmy for best comedy. "I guess there's a bunch of people that go to the movies that don't watch television," he added. "You know, I don't think you can underestimate a film that's on the (Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) screener list. Any film that's nominated for a best picture is going to be seen by gobs of filmmakers that will never see something like 'Hancock,' even though 'Hancock' may out-earn

it by three. Milos Forman is not going to see 'Hancock,' although he might screen 'Juno.' "

Whereas sister Justine, a mother of two, has returned to TV (a recurring role on ABC's "Desperate Housewives"), Jason has been lining up movie parts. Upcoming are roles in the Ricky Gervais comedy "This Side of the Truth," a Mike Judge comedy called "Extract" and "State of Play," a remake of a BBC political thriller in which Bateman plays a "bisexual fetish club performer with an OxyContin problem."

There is also a project he can't talk about—and one that he can: "Arrested Development," the movie, which Bateman said is about to get the green light, provided series creator Mitch Hurwitz feels the budget is in keeping with his script ambitions.

Hurwitz too has been reading the buzz, although the writer has been busy with "Sit Down, Shut Up," an animated series for midseason on Fox (Bateman voices one of the characters) that's had its own saga: a dispute over whether the show's writers will win out in their push to be covered by the Writers Guild of America instead of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

"As I've been developing the plot, I've been talking to line producers," Hurwitz said of the "Arrested" movie, indicating a deal had yet to be worked out with Fox Searchlight.

It was Hurwitz who rescued Bateman from the "tired piece of meat" portion of his career, although he was dubious when he saw Bateman's name on the call sheet. The actor had become, by then, a kind of amiable, fail-safe casting choice, even if the '90s sitcoms that cast him—"George & Leo," "Chicago Sons," "Ned & Stacey"—had failed.



AP
Actors Will Smith, left, Charlize Theron, center, and Jason Bateman arrive at the "Hancock" premiere Monday June 30, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Prince Harry balances army duty, charity work

MASERU, Lesotho (AP)—Prince Harry would like to spend more time helping children in Africa.

Britain's royal soldier-humanitarian is in the impoverished African kingdom of Lesotho this week to work with Sentebale—the charity he and Lesotho's Prince Seeiso founded in the memory of Harry's late mother, Princess Diana.

The 23-year-old lieutenant spoke with reporters recently about balancing his army life with his charity work.

"I wish I could be out here more often," he said while visiting a newly opened center for abused children. "I do the most I can to come out here and see the kids."

Harry first came to Lesotho in 2004, spending two months volunteering on local welfare projects. Landlocked Lesotho, surrounded by South Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the region.

Since then, the prince has upped his work with the army, and earlier this year was deployed in Afghanistan.

Sentebale—which means "forget me not" in Sesotho—was founded to help orphans and vulnerable children in a



Britain's Prince Harry, left, jokes with a toddler during his visit at a newly opened center for abused children in Maseru, Lesotho, Wednesday, July 9, 2008.

nation of 1.8 million people where about 300,000 children have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. Many children are forced to leave school to look after younger siblings, and are open to abuse or exploitation.

The brightly colored Lesotho Child Counseling Unit is just one of a number of projects in which Sentebale is involved. Others include efforts to treat and educate about HIV/AIDS and help children with mental or physical disabilities.

The unit—set on a hilltop outside the capital, Maseru—

provides a temporary haven for up to 40 children who have been sexually or physically abused. It was started in 2002 by a local child counselor who housed children in a shipping container at her home, but had to turn many away for lack of space and money.

Sentebale stepped in and built the new thatched-roof complex for about \$190,000, with help from Standard Lesotho Bank. Sentebale is partly funded through fundraising projects and donations.

Children stay for an average

of three months, as the center seeks help from qualified counselors to enable them to return to their lives and, where possible, their families.

Most are girls aged from 18 months to early teens, said the charity's director in Lesotho, Harper Brown.

Since the new center opened on July 4, the children have been sleeping in dormitories, playing with a large collection of toys and running around the shelter's spacious property which includes a merry-go-round that also acts as a water pump.

Danish film wins Czech festival prize

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP)—The Danish film "Terribly Happy" has won the top prize at the 43rd International Film Festival in the Czech spa town of Karlovy Vary.

Director Henrik Ruben Genz's film contains elements of horror and western genres and centers on the story of policeman sent for disciplinary reasons from the capital to a provincial town.

The film was chosen out of 14 contenders for the Crystal Globe by the festival's seven-member jury led by director Ivan Passer. Saturday's award also includes a \$30,000 cash prize.

Pete Seeger to do benefit for farmers

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (AP)—Folk singer Pete Seeger is coming to the aid of New England farmers.

Seeger will headline a Sept. 13 New England Farm Relief Concert in Brattleboro to raise money for a new micro-loan program being developed by The Carrot Project and the organization that operates the town's annual Strolling of the Heifers.

Seeger, 89, a member of the

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, is known for hits including "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," "If I Had a Hammer" and "Turn, Turn, Turn."

The Carrot Project, a nonprofit based in Somerville, Mass., makes loans and guarantees available for small farms and people who use environmentally friendly practices. The Strolling of the Heifers is an annual event in Brattleboro

in which flower-bedecked young cows are paraded down Main Street to celebrate Vermont's agricultural tradition.

"We're truly honored that Pete Seeger has chosen to benefit Strolling of the Heifers and our micro-loan program in one of the very few performances he will make this year," said Orly Munzing, chair of Strolling of the Heifers.

PBS to air Burns' national parks series next year

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns' new series celebrating America's national parks and detailing their history will air in fall 2009, PBS said Saturday.

"The National Parks: America's Best Idea," is a 12-hour, six-part film that traces the origins and growth of the national parks system over 150 years.

The series will feature Burns' trademark blend of archival photos, interviews and what PBS called "breathtaking images" of the national parks system. Tom Hanks, Andy Garcia and John

Lithgow are among the actors who lend their voices to historical figures in the series. The narrator is actor Peter Coyote.

Those who fought to preserve the parks saw in them a "visual, tangible representation of God's majesty," Burns said in a statement released by PBS at a meeting of the Television Critics Association.

The series details the crass opportunism as well as the lofty ideals that became part of the national parks story, Burns said.

"The National Parks," produced by Florentine Films

and public TV station WETA Washington D.C., is directed by Burns and produced by him and writer Dayton Duncan, who wrote a companion book for the series.

Burns, among the nation's highest-profile documentarians since his series "The Civil War" created a sensation, has agreed to air his work exclusively on PBS until 2022, the network said last year. His other films include "The War," a 14-hour series on World War II, and "Baseball," an 18 1/2-hour series on the sport's history.

Finality of pet's death is hard idea for niece to grasp

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I recently lost my loyal companion of 12 years, my dog Buddy. His death has been difficult for me, although with each passing day the hurt eases a little.

My 3-year-old niece, "Tamara," adored Buddy. Her first words during any conversation usually were, "Where's Buddy?" or, "How is Buddy?" Tamara lives in another state, so she was able to see him only during visits to my home. I asked my sister to explain that Buddy had died and gone to heaven, hoping Tamara would understand why Buddy is no longer here with me. Sadly, she didn't do as I asked. The last time we talked Tamara said, "Maybe he'll be back from heaven when we come see you."

They're coming next month, and when they do I know I'll have to deal with Buddy's loss all over again. What's the best way to handle this with the least amount of hurt for all concerned? When her fish died, they flushed it down the toilet, and Tamara still thinks it will come swimming back one day.

"AUNT LALA" IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR AUNT LALA: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your beloved Buddy. The way to handle this is, when your niece arrives and asks where Buddy is, tell her again that he died. And when she asks when he's coming back, tell her that when creatures die, they do not come back. It's the truth, and it may stop her from continually checking the toilet.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Can you give me a lighthearted, polite response when someone says, "Shame on you!" for not doing something he thinks everyone should be doing—like watching "Star Wars" movies and inconsequential things like that?

My husband has a colleague who says this constantly. We find it rude, but don't want to match his rudeness with our own.

STUMPED IN ST. CLOUD, MINN.

DEAR STUMPED: You husband's colleague is not being rude. He's being asinine—and for you and your husband to buy into it is a waste of your time and emotion.

The next time he says, "Shame on you" for something so trivial, just laugh and agree with him. "Yes, ha-ha. It's shameful." Then change the subject. No one has the right to dictate how you should spend your time, so take it with a grain of salt.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I read an article in our local paper a while ago that said good employees who leave a company usually do so because of their boss.

With that in mind, I would like to bring closure to my recent resignation with the following open letter to my former boss:

"Thanks for asking me to stay on, but I respectfully decline. I will be self-employed from now on. However, if in the future I ever feel the need to be publicly humiliated, blind-sided, ostracized and called a spy, be distrusted and disciplined by superiors for no good reason, fight for wages that are rightfully mine, stabbed in the back by fellow employees, used as a pawn in executive rivalries, or (especially) chewed out when you're having a bad day, I'll get back to you!"

MOVING ON IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR MOVING ON: I'm printing your letter. I hope that seeing it in print will be cathartic. I wish you good luck in your new career, where someday you may be a boss yourself. And if you are, I'm sure you will create a healthier office environment than the one you left.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Ex-Yankees star Bobby Murcer, 62

NEW YORK (AP)—Bobby Murcer succeeded Mickey Mantle, played in pinstripes with Don Mattingly and watched proudly from the broadcast booth when the New York Yankees returned to power.

A cherished link from former Yankees greats to the club's current stars, Murcer died Saturday due to complications from a malignant brain tumor, the team said. He was 62.

In his final moments, Murcer was surrounded by family at Mercy Hospital in his hometown of Oklahoma City, the Yankees said. A five-time All-Star outfielder, he spent nearly four decades with New York as a player, executive and announcer.

"Bobby Murcer was a born Yankee, a great guy, very well-liked and a true friend of mine," owner George Steinbrenner said. "I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife Kay, their children and grandchildren. I will really miss the guy."

Murcer was diagnosed with a brain tumor on Christmas Eve 2006 after having headaches. He had surgery that week in Houston and doctors later discovered the tumor was malignant. Determined to be around his beloved Yankees, Murcer returned to the broadcast booth last year and briefly this season.

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Packers GM, coach deny Favre's request for release



GREEN BAY, Wis.

(AP)—The Packers aren't about to let Brett Favre become a free agent. And while he's now free to return to Green Bay for another season, there's no guarantee he'll be the Packers' starting quarterback if he does.

In an interview with The Associated Press Saturday, Packers general manager Ted Thompson and coach Mike McCarthy said they don't plan to grant Favre the release he is seeking from his contract and are committed to Aaron Rodgers as their starter.

"We've communicated that to Brett, that we have since moved forward," Thompson said Saturday, in his first public comments since Favre requested to be released this week. "At the same time, we've never said that there couldn't be some role that he might play here. But I would understand his point that he would want to play."

And if Favre wanted to play for the Packers, he had the chance when he told them a few weeks after his tearful goodbye news conference that he was having second thoughts. With Thompson and McCarthy preparing to board a private plane to fly to Mississippi and seal the deal on a comeback, all Favre had to do was say yes.

He didn't.

"Ted always wanted Brett back," McCarthy said. "We always wanted Brett back."

A message left by the AP with Favre's agent, Bus Cook, was not immediately returned.

Favre, who led the Packers to a Super Bowl title after the 1996 season, held a tearful news conference to announce his retire-

ment March 6. Favre has made high drama out of his waffling over retirement in the past several offseasons, but it seemed to be for real this time.

Until Favre told Packers offensive line coach James Campen a few weeks later that he was having second thoughts. Campen is a friend of Favre's who McCarthy said has been miscast as an official intermediary between Favre and the team in some media reports.

After several telephone discussions with Favre led them to believe he wanted to return, Thompson and McCarthy were preparing to go to Mississippi when Favre suddenly called McCarthy.

"He said he appreciated all the planning we were going to do," McCarthy said. "But he felt that at this point, he had reached a point of closure, to use his words, and he was going to stick with his initial decision."

Even after Favre's near-comeback in March, McCarthy and Thompson said they regularly communicated with Favre. Thompson even went to Mississippi to visit Favre in May, and didn't get the sense Favre was having serious thoughts about playing again as the two had lunch on his back porch.

"He mentioned several things

where you could tell there's always indecisiveness," Thompson said. "He's wondering if he made the right decision. I think that's normal."

But the tone changed dramatically in June, when Campen said he was getting worried about Favre. McCarthy said he had a phone conversation with Favre on June 20, and the quarterback sent a clear message: "Give me my helmet or give me my release."

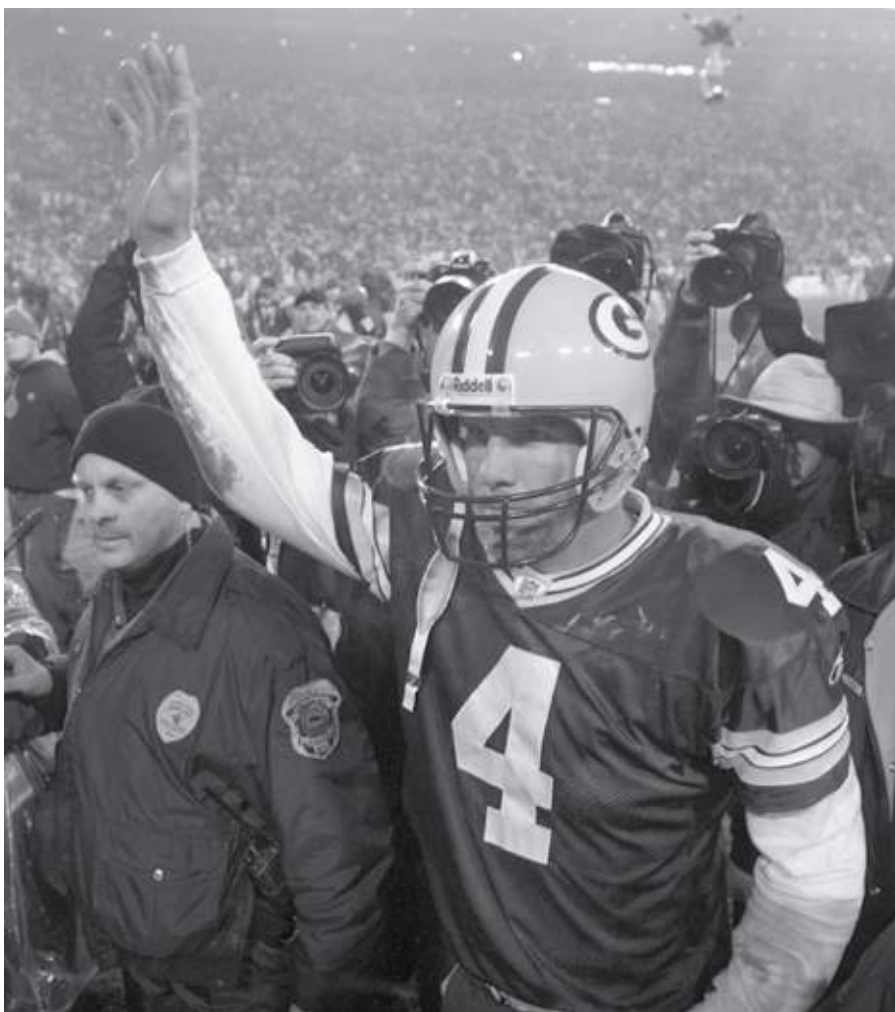
on the larger issue of "the appropriateness of Native American imagery for team names."

The Redskins declined to comment, referring calls to attorney Bob Raskopf, who has been representing the team and the NFL in the case. Raskopf did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

The case now heads back to the U.S. Court of Appeals. Should it agree that Harjo's group was too old to sue, she has a backup plan: A group of six American Indians ranging in age from 18 to 24 filed essentially the same lawsuit two years ago. That suit is on hold until Harjo's case is resolved.

Harjo therefore anticipates that one day, a court will have to decide once and for all whether the Redskins name is offensive.

"It's so ironic that they would like to get rid of this though the loophole of passage of time, when we're in our 16th year of litigation," Harjo said. "Unbelievable. If this (lawsuit) were a child, we would be preparing the child to go to college."



In this Dec. 21, 2006 file photo, Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre waves to spectators as he leaves the field following the Packers' 9-7 victory over the Minnesota Vikings during an NFL football game in Green Bay, Wis.

"That always seemed to be the one thing that he had to come to grips with," McCarthy said.

Next came a text message exchange between Thompson and Favre on July 4. At the time, Thompson didn't think it was a big deal that he wrote Favre back saying he was traveling and asked if they could talk Monday.

But then Thompson began getting texts from Cook. Sensing rising tension, Thompson and McCarthy agreed to a conference call with Favre and Cook on Tuesday.

Only then, McCarthy said, did Favre say he was 100 percent committed to playing. McCarthy said he doesn't question Favre's commitment to football, but said Favre often brought up the issue himself.

"The way he plays the game illustrates the guy is committed," McCarthy said. "(But) those are his words. That was always his final hurdle that he said he had to get over."

The hurdle was apparently cleared weeks before the start of

training camp.

"Was it convincing? I'd say yes," McCarthy said. "But that was the first time, July 8, that I'd ever heard him say (he was committed). And he continually, from (June) 21 to July 8, told James Campen that he was not going to play. So that's a pretty important piece of the puzzle."

Cook then sent the Packers a letter officially asking for Favre to be released, which would allow him to sign with any NFL team.

With Favre not being offered a defined role with the Packers if he returns at this point, and the team not inclined to release Favre so he could sign with a division rival, a trade may be the best resolution.

Thompson and McCarthy declined to discuss that possibility, and Thompson said he had not received any inquiries from other teams as of Saturday morning.

Where does that leave the Packers and their beloved three-time MVP?

In a pretty big mess.

"Quite frankly, it's a little gut-wrenching as an organization to go through it, and certainly for Mike and myself," Thompson said. "This stuff hurts a lot of people. I mean, it hurts. I'm not talking about physically hurting, but the sensitivity. We understand where the fans are coming from. This is a hot-button issue that surpasses anything I've ever gone through."

Perry sets up 3-way tie at John Deere Classic



SILVIS, Ill.

(AP)—Kenny Perry finished with a flourish to move into a three-way tie for the lead through three rounds at the John Deere Classic on Saturday.

Perry, seeking his third victory in five starts, birdied the 18th hole to finish at 4-under 67 for the day and 15-under 198 for the tournament. That tied him with Eric Axley (67) and Brad Adamonis (66), who at 35 is the PGA Tour's oldest rookie.

Jay Williamson (62) and second-round leader Will MacKenzie (70) were one stroke back.

Perry was at 15-under after sinking a nine-foot birdie putt on the par-4 14th before hitting trouble on the 15th, hitting rough off the tee and two-putting from nine feet for a bogey. But he made up for it on the 18th, when his approach nearly hit the pin before settling just under six feet to its left.

That drew oohs and aahs from the crowd and even a "You the man!" from one spectator. Perry then buried the putt to complete the birdie on the par-4 hole and pull even with Axley and Adamonis.

While those three grabbed the lead, the 41-year-old Williamson made the biggest move with a 9-under round.

Five strokes off the lead when the day began, he jumped into contention for his first PGA Tour win with a strong start and an astounding 29 (7-under) on the back nine.

He started with three birdies and was at 7-under for the tournament through the first nine holes. But he made his big move on the par-5 10th hole, when his 112-yard approach dropped into the cup. He birdied four of the next five holes to go 13-under, and ended the round with a 26-foot birdie putt.

Williamson pumped his fist and left the course tied for first. Although the lead didn't last, he certainly is in a better mood than when he was after he arrived on Tuesday. He saw that he is 158th in the FedEx Cup standings and cringed.

"It frustrated me, and it also was a kick in the pants," he said. "Again, I haven't done anything yet. ... The fact of the matter is I've got to go out tomorrow and perform."

Which is exactly what Perry's been doing lately.

His best run in more than two decades on the Tour began with a playoff loss at the AT&T Classic in May and continued with victories at the Memorial and Buick Open last month. After a week off, he's in position for his 12th win.

Perry has raised eyebrows in recent weeks by deciding not to try to qualify for the U.S. Open and honoring a commitment to play in Milwaukee next week rather than the British Open. The Kentucky native is focusing on a different major accomplishment: Helping the U.S. win the Ryder Cup at Valhalla in Louisville.

"He's made a commitment to this Tour because he knows that this Tour has put him where he is, and I think other guys need to take a look at what he's doing because he's taken a lot of heat for that," Williamson said. "He's a guy that really values what the Tour means to him."

While Williamson made a big leap toward the top, 2007 Masters champion Zach Johnson made a big move the other way.

He shot 4-over 75 for the day and was at 1-under for the tournament after bogeying four holes and double-bogeying the par-4 ninth.

"Very disappointing," said Johnson, who grew up just over an hour away in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

He insisted his left wrist was fine after missing three weeks but was at a loss to explain another tough round at what he considers his home tournament.

"I don't know what it was," said Johnson, who has never finished higher than 20th here.

Judge sides with Redskins against American Indians

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Redskins have won the latest round in a 16-year court battle against a group of American Indians, prevailing on a technicality that again skirts the issue of whether the team's nickname is racially offensive.

In a ruling dated June 25 and first circulated Thursday, U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled that the youngest of the seven Native American plaintiffs waited too long after turning 18 to file the lawsuit that attempts to revoke the Redskins trademarks.

The lead plaintiff, Suzan Shown Harjo, said Friday the group will appeal.

"She ruled as we anticipated she would: for the loophole that would allow everyone to avoid the merits of the case," said Harjo, president of the Washington-based Morning Star Institute that advances Native American causes.

Harjo and her fellow plain-

tiffs have been working since 1992 to have the Redskins trademarks declared invalid. They initially won—the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office panel canceled the trademarks in 1999—but Kollar-Kotelly overturned the ruling in 2003 in part because the suit was filed decades after the first Redskins trademark was issued in 1967.

The U.S. Court of Appeals then sent the case back to Kollar-Kotelly, noting that the youngest of the plaintiffs was only 1 year old in 1967 and therefore could not have taken legal action at the time.

But Kollar-Kotelly's new ruling rejects that possible argument. She wrote that the youngest plaintiff turned 18 in 1984 and therefore "waited almost eight years" after coming of age to join the lawsuit.

The judge did not address whether the Redskins name is offensive or racist. She wrote that her decision was not based

Harden debuts strong, as Cubs beats Giants



CHICAGO (AP) — Rich Harden

en struck out 10 in an impressive debut for the Chicago Cubs, who blew a five-run lead in the ninth inning before beating the San Francisco Giants 8-7 on Reed Johnson's single in the 11th on Saturday.

Jim Edmonds homered and drove in four runs early for the Cubs, who led 7-0 after four innings and held on to win for the fifth time in six games in the National League. The Giants have lost six straight.

Cubs pitcher Sean Marshall singled off Brian Wilson (0-2) to start the bottom of the 11th. Mark DeRosa then walked, and Marshall was forced out on Mike Fontenot's bunt attempt. Johnson then laced a hit to right and DeRosa slid into home just ahead of Emmanuel Burriss' throw.



Chicago Cubs' pitcher Rich Harden delivers a pitch in the first inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in Chicago, Saturday, July 12, 2008.

Mets 3, Rockies 0

At New York, Jose Reyes homered and the resilient New York bullpen shut down Colorado after Pedro Martinez left with a sore shoulder, combining on a one-hitter.

Fernando Tatis and Brian Schneider also drove in runs for the Mets, who have won eight straight for the first time since June 15, 2006.

Martinez left after four innings, allowing just a hit and a walk. The three-time Cy Young Award winner was replaced by Carlos Muniz (1-1) to start the fifth. The Mets bullpen has pitched 18 1-3 innings of shut-out ball on this homestand.

Diamondbacks 10, Phillies 4

At Philadelphia, Randy Johnson helped secure his 290th career victory with a two-run double to start an eight-run fourth inning, and Arizona beat Philadelphia.

Johnson (6-7) struck out three in six innings, but left while warming up in the seventh because of cramping in his calf that began after running the bases in the fourth. The 44-year-old Johnson allowed four runs, five hits and walked one.

Phillies starter Adam Eaton (3-8) allowed eight runs on seven hits, failing to reach the fourth inning for the second straight start.

Pirates 12, Cardinals 11, 10 innings

At Pittsburgh, Jason Michaels hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning, the Pirates' third big homer in three innings, and Pittsburgh rallied from six runs down in the eighth to beat St. Louis.

St. Louis appeared to be cruising with a season-high 22 hits while taking leads of 9-3 in the seventh and 10-4 in the eighth, but Jason Bay hit his second two-run homer of the game in the eighth.

The Pirates tied it with four runs in the ninth on Nate McLouth's three-run shot off Jason Isringhausen and Bay's fifth RBI of the game, on a force-play grounder.

Troy Glaus homered leading off the 10th for St. Louis' 10th extra-base hit, but the Cardinals' unreliable bullpen couldn't hold that lead, either.

Reds 8, Brewers 2

At Milwaukee, Edinson Volquez struck out 10 in seven sharp innings for his 12th win, and Adam Dunn homered twice to lead Cincinnati past Milwaukee.

Milwaukee dropped to 2-4 since acquiring CC Sabathia in a trade with Cleveland on Monday. Sabathia makes his second start on Sunday.

Volquez (12-3), Cincinnati's lone All-Star, lowered his NL-leading ERA to 2.29. He gave up six hits and two runs, one earned.

Seth McClung (5-5) took the loss despite striking out a season-high seven. He gave up three hits and three runs—all on Dunn's first-inning shot. Jerry Hairston singled, Ken Griffey Jr. walked and Dunn hit his 25th homer with two outs.

Astros 6, Nationals 4

At Washington, Hunter Pence homered and drove in three runs to help Houston beat Washington.

Lance Berkman added two RBIs and Carlos Lee had three hits for the Astros.

Left-hander Wandy Rodriguez (4-3) allowed four runs and eight hits over 5 1-3 innings to earn the win.

Rookie Collin Balester (1-2) gave up six runs—four earned—and 11 hits in 4 2-3 innings for Washington, which hit into four double plays, matching a season high.

Braves 4, Padres 1

At San Diego, Jeff Francoeur had a tiebreaking, broken bat single with the bases loaded in the sixth inning to help Atlanta extend Greg Maddux's winless skid to 12 starts.

Maddux (3-8), who won his 350th game on May 10, is one start short of his longest winless

drought, which was a 13-start stretch from May 11-July 14, 1990, with the Chicago Cubs.

Maddux allowed just three hits over the first five innings and retired the first two batters in the sixth. But Chipper Jones lined his second single of the night to left and Mark Teixeira singled to center before Brian McCann drew his second of three walks from Maddux loading the bases.

Francoeur, who was sent down to Double-A Mississippi on July 4 and recalled July 7, singled just out of the reach of diving shortstop Khalil Greene, and Jones and Teixeira scored.

Rookie Charlie Morton (2-2), picked up the victory pitching 5 1-3 innings and allowing four hits and a run.

Marlins 5, Dodgers 3, 11 innings

At Los Angeles, Dan Uggla doubled home the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, Jorge Cantu homered as Florida beat Los Angeles.

Josh Willingham led off the 11th with a double against Ramon Troncoso (0-1), and scored when Uggla pulled a 1-0 pitch inside third base for his first RBI in three games after missing the previous 11 with a left ankle strain. Cody Ross added a sacrifice fly after Robert Andino sacrificed Uggla to third.

Doug Waechter (1-2) pitched a perfect 10th inning for the victory and Kevin Gregg got three outs for his 20th save in 26 attempts.

Yankees 9, Blue Jays 4

At Toronto, on the day Alex Rodriguez passed Mickey Mantle on the major league home run list, the New York Yankees were left mourning Bobby Murcer—the former star who replaced Mantle in the lineup long ago.

Rodriguez's 537th home run moved him into 13th place, and Derek Jeter hit No. 200 of his career to help the New

York Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 9-4 in the American League on Saturday.

After the game, the Yankees learned of Murcer's death due to complications from brain cancer, and players spoke fondly of a man who spent nearly four decades with the team as a player, executive and beloved broadcaster.

New York right-hander Darrell Rasner (5-7) gave up four runs in the first but shut out the Blue Jays over the next four innings to win.

Toronto's Jesse Litsch (8-6) gave up eight runs—three earned—and seven hits in 2 2-3 innings.

Twins 6, Tigers 5

At Detroit, Joe Mauer hit a home run and Brendan Harris homered and had a season-high four RBIs to help Minnesota beat Detroit for the third straight day.

Harris singled in the Twins' first two runs and opened the seventh inning with a solo shot off Tigers starter Nate Robertson (6-8) that gave the Twins the lead for good. Mauer, the starting catcher for the AL All-Star team, added a two-run shot later in the inning.

Minnesota's Scott Baker (6-2) allowed four runs and six hits in seven-plus innings and won for the fourth time in five starts. The Twins improved to 21-6 since June 13, the majors' best record in that span.

Red Sox 12, Orioles 1

At Boston, Kevin Youkilis had a career-high six RBIs, thanks to his first grand slam, and Tim Wakefield pitched seven innings of two-hit ball to lead Boston over Baltimore.

J.D. Drew and Manny Ramirez homered on consecutive pitches in the first inning, and Youkilis cleared the bases in the third when the Red Sox scored seven times to chase Radhames Liz (3-2). Youkilis also added a sacrifice fly in the fourth and a run-scoring infield

single in the eighth.

Wakefield (6-6) retired his last 13 batters after walking Adam Jones with one out in the third inning. Jones went to second on a passed ball—the only base runner besides Ramon Hernandez, who hit a solo homer, to get that far against the Boston starter.

Indians 8, Rays 4

At Cleveland, Ryan Garko drove in five runs to help Matt Ginter earn his first major league win in more than four years, and Cleveland handed Tampa Bay its season-high sixth straight loss.

All-Star Grady Sizemore hit his AL-leading 23rd homer for Cleveland, which has dominated the Rays in 12 successive home games since 2006.

Ginter (1-0) gave up five hits over five innings, and tied a career high with five strikeouts in his first big league start since Sept. 18, 2005.

Matt Garza (7-5) gave up seven runs and 11 hits in five innings.

White Sox 9, Rangers 7

At Arlington, Texas, John Danks, the Chicago left-hander who was once Texas' top pitching prospect, struck out eight in 7 2-3 innings to help beat Texas.

Carlos Quentin's two-run single in the sixth snapped a 2-2 tie and put the White Sox ahead to stay.

Danks (7-4) retired 14 straight batters before giving up consecutive doubles to German Duran and Ian Kinsler in the eighth. Kinsler's run-scoring hit extended his hitting streak to 24 games, longest in the majors this season.

Josh Hamilton, the starting

All-Star outfielder, upped his majors-leading RBI total to 95 with a pair of run-scoring singles for Texas.

Royals 5, Mariners 4

At Kansas City, Missouri, David DeJesus hit a two-run homer with two out in the ninth and Kansas City rallied to beat Seattle for a third straight win.

Mariners closer Brandon Morrow (1-2) retired the first two batters in the ninth before walking pinch-hitter Billy Butler on four pitches. DeJesus hit Morrow's next pitch just over the right-field fence and into the Royals' bullpen, the first game-ending homer by a Royals player since April 19, 2005.

Mark Grudzielanek had singles in the first and third innings to become the 18th active player with 2,000 hits. He was the 251st to reach the milestone in big league history.

Angels 4, Athletics 1

At Oakland, California, Ervin Santana allowed five hits over seven scoreless innings, Howie Kendrick had two hits and an RBI, and Oakland beat Los Angeles.

Santana (11-3), a first-time All-Star, improved to 9-1 against the A's, including wins in his last five decisions against them. He's 35-32 against the rest of MLB.

Jack Cust struck out in his 19th consecutive game, setting an Oakland record for non-pitchers.

Dana Eveland (7-6) gave up two runs in the first inning and then pitched his way out of trouble the rest of the way as his career-long three-game winning streak was halted.

NBA BRIEFS


Rockets sign free agent Barry

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets signed free agent Brent Barry to a two-year contract on Thursday, making him the third member of the family to join the franchise. The 6-foot-7 Barry played 31 games with San Antonio last season and shot 43 percent (48-for-112) from 3-point range. A 13-year veteran, Barry will play for his sixth NBA team after stints with the Los Angeles Clippers, Miami Heat, Chicago Bulls, Seattle SuperSonics and the Spurs. Barry's father, Rick, spent two seasons with the Rockets (1978-80) and his older brother, Jon, played for the team from 2004-06. Barry, 36, was a member of San Antonio's championship teams, in the 2004-05 and 2006-07 seasons. Among active players, Barry ranks eighth in career 3-point field goal percentage (.407) and sixth in career 3-pointers made (1,346). Barry won the NBA slam dunk contest in 1996. He was the league's most accurate 3-point shooter in 2000-01, making 48 percent (109-of-229).

Durant won't appear opposite Beasley in Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Reigning NBA Rookie of the Year Kevin Durant won't be making a return appearance in summer league play Thursday night in Orlando. Oklahoma City said it was holding Durant out, though the forward said earlier this week he wanted to compete against the Miami Heat's Michael Beasley. The two are friends, and fellow No. 2 overall draft picks. Durant made a surprise appearance Tuesday, scoring 22 points in a 100-77 exhibition win over the Orlando Magic. It was the first win in the new Oklahoma City franchise's history, though it won't count for anything. The former SuperSonics are one of six teams playing five practice games in a five-day span this week in Orlando. The rosters are mostly full of journeymen, but each team has played its most recent top draft picks.

BSML releases sked this week

The 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League is keeping its fingers crossed for Mother Nature to allow them to play this week as two play dates are scheduled in the next three days at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Today, July 14, D-9ers are set

to take on the Korean Dreams in the makeup of their rained out game early in the regular season.

On Wednesday, July 16, defending champion Tanapag Falcons then take on Ford Rangers to determine the runner-up for the regular season, behind spotless Rock Steady.

On Friday, July 18, the BSML has made contingencies for any

makeup that needs to be played on that date.

“Weather permitting, the playoffs begin the following Monday, July 21,” said BSML coordinator Tony Rogolifo.

In related news, the upcoming SML Fall League is tentatively scheduled to open in late August or early September.

The developmental league

will again play host to players ages 25 and under. This year marks the ninth season the program has been in existent since it was first inaugurated in 1999.

As in previous years, the SML requires players to submit proof of eligibility documents such as birth certificates, passports, and driver’s license. In addition, copies of insurance policy or card must accompany these documents. This is important to ensure players are fully covered

by their individual health and life insurance in case of injury during league play.

Returning players are not required to provide eligibility documents since they are on record files. However, all players, to include returnees must have some type of insurance coverage in order to play. Players without insurance coverage are asked to contact the SML to make arrangements.

The league’s entry fee—in

the amount of \$800—should be made payable to Saipan Major League and is due on Aug. 22.

A 25-man team roster is due prior to opening of the league. Teams are encouraged to start securing sponsors that would provide for the teams’ necessities such as the entry fee and uniforms.

An organizational meeting is also set for Aug. 4, 12noon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room to detail out plans for the upcoming league. *(Mark Rabago)*

BEST

From Page 28

backed squad had dominated the division.

Mizer and her 12-man dynamite crew capped a one-loss season with a 15-0 demolition of the Dragons last May 25 at the Miguel Basa “Tan Ge” Pangelinan Field.

Last year, the Patriots repeated as champions after a 20-1 drubbing of the Hustlers. The win capped an 18-0 season, including 15-0 in the regular season.

The year before that, the Patriots won the Major League

title following an 11-7 win over the Tanapag Braves. The team went 21-0 in 2006, including 18-0 in the regular season.

Also receiving their hardware Saturday were regular season runners-up UMDA Hustlers I and Bank of Saipan Red Sox and playoff runners-up San Antonio Dragons and Ol’Aces. Shell Suns, meanwhile, won the sportsmanship plum.

The Patriots also lorded it over the individual awards as Jeremy Rabauliman and teammate Jun Rabauliman were named playoff and regular season MVPs, respectively.

Other Major League individual

awardees were Pirates’ Frankie Camacho (batting champ: .733), Aldebert Lizama (runs champs; 38), Jun Rabauliman (doubles champ: 18), Jeremy Rabauliman, Jun Rabauliman, and Survivors’ Poland Masaharu (homerun champs: seven), Jun Rabauliman (RBI champ: 38), Patriots’ Chris Mizer (ERA champ: 0.26), and Patriots’ Jeremy Lizama (strike-out champ: 56).

SLLBA president Juan I. Tenorio congratulated all the teams that made up the 2008 season of the program during an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* following the awards ceremony.

“First of all, I would like to

congratulate the managers and the coaches for a great job done. The result of their work is showing when we find that some of the players are tied for homeruns, for RBIs, for doubles, triples. So, those are indicators on how our leagues have progressed and developed.”

He, however, encouraged everyone involved in the island’s Little League program not to rest on their laurels and work to make it better in the coming years.

“My overall assessment of the 2008 season is above average, we still have some room for improvement and I hope that

we would continue to work to achieve that end and to continue to improve. Hopefully, next year more teams will participate in the 2008 season. That would give us more players to select for the all-stars,” he said.

The Kagman Lion Hearts

(Junior League), Jets (Senior League), and Tanapag Falcons (Big League) also were feted Saturday with SLLBA officials awarding them their trophies. Full details of their successful season will be published in the *Saipan Tribune* in the coming days.

KLITSCHKO

From Page 28

after Thompson caught him with several good shots, especially a fifth round right hook.

But Klitschko was ahead on the cards and caught Thompson in the sixth with two good rights to take control of the fight.

He tired after the seventh—until he charged out in the 11th round and landed the knock-out punch. That led the sell-out crowd of 15,000 to chant “Klitschko, Klitschko” again.

“They were both tired, but Wladimir has experience now, then he came back with a second wind,” Klitschko trainer Emanuel Steward said. “I said Thompson would be one of

the most difficult fights we will have.”

The fight came after Klitschko decisioned Sultan Ibragimov at Madison Square Garden in February, gaining him the WBO title but no twinning many fans with a lackluster performance.

Thompson (31-2, 19 KOs) was a WBO mandatory fight for Klitschko. He served as Klitschko’s sparring partner before one of the Ukrainian’s worst losses, a two-round stoppage by Corrie Sanders in 2003.

Thompson’s 27-fight unbeaten streak dating to 2000 was snapped. When Klitschko fell over him, Thompson’s knee was hurt. However, the American said that was temporary and didn’t lead to the knockout.

“I was fatigued, I thought he

was fatigued too,” he said. “He did what a great champion did, he took advantage when I was vulnerable. The only thing that hurts on me is my heart—for losing.”

Next up for Klitschko is likely Alexander Povetkin, the IBF mandatory challenger, if the Russian can beat Taurus Sylkes next Saturday. If not, cruiserweight champion David Haye—who said he wants to fight Klitschko—was in the audience for the bout.

“There’s a line waiting to fight me,” Klitschko said. “We will try to decide, maybe in a couple of weeks.”

The 36-year-old Thompson gave the Klitchko problems with his size. Thompson is two inches shorter than the 6-foot-7 Ukrainian.

“He made it difficult,” Klitschko said. “I didn’t have the rhythm at the start, but the jab got better each round.”

Thompson failed in his goal to make a name for himself back home in the United States with a Klitschko win. His promoter, Dan Goosen, promised to line him up some other big money fights after the better than expected performance.

Klitschko, who started his career in Hamburg, fought in the city for the first time in eight years.

On the undercard, American Jonathan Banks (19-0-0, 14 knockouts) won a decision against Italy’s Vincenzo Rossitto (36-5-4, 22 knockouts) to claim the vacant IBO cruiser-weight title.

RJ

From Page 28

that nobody donated a CNMI flag this year for his son’s participation in the parade of flags on opening day.

“No one stepped up for the NMI flag, so I’m a little disappointed.”

Last year, Macaranas missed the final two rounds of the 2007 Callaway Junior Golf Tournament after scoring a 16-over par 74 in the first round and a 12-over

par 70 in the second round. He missed the cut by 15 strokes.

Macaranas’ father and mother, Becky, both hail from Saipan.

The Callaway Junior World Championship is one of the biggest youth competitions in golf and previous boys champions include Notah Begay III, Ernie Els, Phil Mickelson, Corey Pavin, Nick Price, Craig Stadler, David Toms, and Tiger Woods.

The year 1984 was extra special, with David Toms winning the 15-17 event,

Els the 13-14s, and Woods the 9-10s, despite being just eight years old.

Past girls champions, meanwhile, include Amy Alcott, Brandie Burton, Lorena Ochoa, and Jennifer Rosales.

The Junior World Golf Championships are held in San Diego, California each year, currently in July.

They include tournaments for six age groups ranging from under-6 to 15-17 and for both boys and girls.

Each age group plays at a sep-

arate course, ranging from a par-three course for the youngest to Torrey Pines for the 15-17s, which is also the venue for the Buick Invitational on the PGA Tour and the site of the 2008 U.S. Open.

The event was founded in 1968. The inaugural tournament numbered 475 entrants from 20 U.S. states and six other countries. By 2003, there were 1,040 participants from 43 U.S states and 45 other countries. Qualifying events are held in the U.S. and elsewhere.

BANMI

From Page 28

requirement to 19 years old.

BANMI is expected to finalize the format for the 25-and-under Basketball League during its next scheduled monthly meeting on Aug. 2.

For now, BANMI is calling on all interested teams that would like to participate in the both leagues—25-and-under cage league and Rotary—to

start preparing.

Entrance fee for the 25-and-under cage league is \$800, while that for the Rotary league is \$200.

While there is no date yet set for the start of the 25-and-under league, the Rotary cage competition is set to unfurl anytime soon. Teams should be ready to present documents such as birth certificates or other proof of age as well as waiver forms to the organizing committee.

This year’s Rotary caging will adopt a two age group format—

Division I (age group for 12 to 14 years old) and Division II (age group for 15 to 18).

For more inquiries about the 25-and-under Basketball League and the under-18 Saipan Rotary Club Summer Youth Basketball League, contact coordinators Abner Venus at 483-4906 or Elias Rangamar at 664-2502.

Ulloa’s won the 2007 Saipan-Cell 25-and-under Youth Basketball League crown, beating the Southern Sonics, 2-1, in their best-of-three championship series.

The team clinched the crown after a 90-81 victory in Game 3. Ulloa’s took Game 1, 101-86, but Southern Sonics roared back with a 100-94 victory in Game 2.

The defending champion for the 2008 Rotary league, meanwhile, is the CNMI Junior Nationals.

The team’s championship also came at the expense of the Southern Sonics, as the Rufino Aguon-coached Junior Nationals won the winner-take-all finals late last year in a score of 98-91.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	55	38	.591	—
Boston	56	40	.583	1/2
New York	50	44	.532	5 1/2
Toronto	46	48	.489	9 1/2
Baltimore	45	47	.489	9 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	54	39	.581	—
Minnesota	53	41	.564	1 1/2
Detroit	46	47	.495	8
Kansas City	43	52	.453	12
Cleveland	40	53	.430	14

West Division

Los Angeles	56	38	.596	—
Oakland	51	43	.543	5
Texas	49	46	.516	7 1/2
Seattle	36	58	.383	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	51	44	.537	—
Florida	50	44	.532	1/2
New York	50	44	.532	1/2
Atlanta	44	50	.468	6 1/2
Washington	36	59	.379	15

Central Division

Chicago	57	37	.606	—
St. Louis	52	43	.547	5 1/2
Milwaukee	51	43	.543	6
Cincinnati	46	49	.484	11 1/2
Pittsburgh	44	49	.473	12 1/2
Houston	43	51	.457	14

West Division

Arizona	47	47	.500	—
Los Angeles	45	49	.479	2
San Francisco	39	55	.415	8
Colorado	39	56	.411	8 1/2
San Diego	37	57	.394	10

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 8, San Francisco 7, 11 innings

N.Y. Mets 3, Colorado 0

Arizona 10, Philadelphia 4

Cincinnati 8, Milwaukee 2

Pittsburgh 12, St. Louis 11, 10 innings

Houston 6, Washington 4

Atlanta 4, San Diego 1

Florida 5, L.A. Dodgers 3, 11 innings

N.Y. Yankees 9, Toronto 4

Minnesota 6, Detroit 5

Boston 12, Baltimore 1

Cleveland 8, Tampa Bay 4

Chicago White Sox 9, Texas 7

Kansas City 5, Seattle 4

L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 1

JOHN DEERE CLASSIC SCORES

SILVIS, Illinois (AP)—Scores Saturday from the John Deere Classic, a \$4.2 million (£2.65 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,268-yard, par-71 TPC Deere Run course:

THIRD ROUND

Eric Axley	65-66-67	198
Brad Adamonis	66-66-66	198
Kenny Perry	65-66-67	198
Jay Williamson	69-68-62	199
Will MacKenzie	65-64-70	199
J.P. Hayes	67-68-65	200
Charlie Wi	64-67-69	200
Tim Clark	70-67-64	201
Chad Campbell	67-67-67	201
Scott Sterling	67-67-67	201
Philip Francis	67-71-64	202
Woody Austin	66-71-66	203
Todd Hamilton	69-68-66	203
Kevin Sutherland	68-68-67	203
Bubba Watson	70-68-65	203
Chez Reavie	67-68-68	203
John Riegger	68-67-68	203
Jeff Overton	67-68-68	203
Jerry Kelly	67-72-64	203
Aaron Baddeley	71-64-68	203
Harrison Frazer	69-65-69	203
Bob Tway	73-64-67	204
Kirk Triplett	68-67-69	204
Vaughn Taylor	68-67-69	204
Jeff Gove	66-68-70	204
Craig Kanada	74-65-65	204
Jesper Parnevik	69-69-67	205
Rich Beem	68-68-69	205
Nicholas Thompson	67-68-70	205
Jason Day	71-67-67	205
Garrett Willis	65-70-70	205
Tim Petrovic	69-66-70	205
Jin Park	70-69-66	205
Lee Janzen	72-67-66	205
Billy Mayfair	70-67-69	206
Nathan Green	71-66-69	206
David Lutterus	68-70-68	206
Jonathan Byrd	67-68-71	206
Bart Bryant	69-70-67	206
Brian Davis	67-66-73	206
Joe Ogilvie	69-68-70	207
Martin Laird	72-65-70	207
Brian Gay	72-66-69	207
Andrew Buckle	72-66-69	207
Pat Perez	67-68-72	207
Patrick Sheehan	66-68-73	207
Paul Claxton	68-69-71	208
Chris Riley	66-71-71	208
Nick Flanagan	69-68-71	208
Michael Letzig	70-68-70	208
Bob Sowards	69-66-73	208
Chris Stroud	69-70-69	208
Shane Bertsch	69-70-69	208
Cameron Beckman	66-73-69	208
Jamie Lovemark	70-66-73	209
Ken Duke	64-72-73	209
Gavin Coles	68-70-71	209
Jon Mills	68-70-71	209
Steve Marino	69-70-70	209
Jim McGovern	70-69-70	209
Kent Jones	67-72-70	209
Marco Dawson	68-70-72	210
Ted Purdy	70-67-73	210
Chad Collins	69-70-71	210
Ron Whittaker	70-69-71	210
Heath Slocum	69-69-73	211
Dean Wilson	68-67-76	211
Glen Day	70-69-72	211
Zach Johnson	69-68-75	212
Ryan Armour	66-72-74	212
Tag Ridings	70-68-74	212
Dan Forsman	69-69-74	212
Parker McLachlin	72-67-73	212
Scott McCarron	71-68-73	212
Mark Wilson	71-68-73	212
Ryan Moore	68-71-74	213

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2008 Little League Awards Ceremony

Photos BY MARK RABAGO



Far left, the Shell Suns team pose with the 2008 Major League Sportsmanship trophy.

Left, home run champions Jeremy Rabauliman of the Patriots and Poland Masaharu of the Survivors pose with, from left, SLLBA's Annie Flores, SLLBA president Juan I. Tenorio, and Patriots manager Thelma Mizer (holding Jun Rabauliman's trophy).

Right, Shane Yamada was the 2008 Big League's RBI champ and homerun champ.

Farright, Bank of Saipan Rex Sox manager Randall Aguon receives the Major League second runner-up trophy from SLLBA president Juan I. Tenorio, right, during the 2008 season's awards ceremony.



Saipan Little League Baseball Association president Juan I. Tenorio, right, awards the regular season Major League championship trophy to SaipanCell Patriots manager Thelma Mizer during the 2008 season's awards ceremony held Saturday at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Pirates slugger Frankie Camacho won the Major League's batting title after a success rate of .733 on the batter's box.



Jeremy Rabauliman of the Patriots won the playoff season MVP after leading the team to its third consecutive title in the 2008 season.



The Kagman Lion Hearts pose with their 2008 Junior League championship trophy.



Lamar Iguel of the Jets receives his strikeout champ trophy in the Junior League from SLLBA's Annie Flores.



Tanapag Falcons won the 2008 League playoff championship after beating Hustlers in the finale.



BSML releases sked this week

The 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League is keeping its fingers crossed for Mother Nature to allow them to play this week as two play dates are scheduled in the next three days at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Packers GM, coach deny Favre's request for release

The Packers aren't about to let Brett Favre become a free agent. And while he's now free to return to Green Bay for another season, there's no guarantee he'll be the Packers' starting quarterback if he does.



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28 MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Best of 2008 Little League feted

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

First of a four-part series

The champions of the Major, Junior, Senior, and Big Leagues were celebrated during the 2008 Saipan Little League Baseball Association awards ceremony held last Saturday at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The event was almost two months after all four age group finals were concluded, but the SLLBA had good reason to postpone the award ceremony, as Saipan hosted the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament in the three older age groups recently.

SaipanCell Patriots were the first to receive their trophy after the Thelma Mizer-managed team won the Major League regular season and playoff championship trophies.

It marked the third straight year that the SaipanCell Communications-



MARK RABAGO

The SaipanCell Patriots pose with their Major League championship and pennant trophies during the 2008 season's awards ceremony held Saturday at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

RJ set for Junior Championships

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



CNMI golf prodigy R.J. Macaranas will be paired with the defending champion when the 2008 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship tees off



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's R.J. Macaranas will tee off for the 2008 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship this Tuesday, July 15, at Torrey Pines, San Diego.

this Tuesday, July 15, at Torrey Pines, San Diego.

In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, Macaranas' dad Richard said his son will be teeing off in the second to the last group of the 7-8 division at 11:20am.

"He is paired with last year's champion and good friend Issei Tanabe, who he competes with on a regular basis on the SCPGA (Southern California PGA) Jr. Tour, Syouta Wakisaka, another friend and competitor, and interestingly he is also paired with Terance Camacho of Guam."

In the run-up to the competition, Richard said R.J. has been playing great golf.

"R.J. is playing awesome. He played last night at Heartwell golf course during the LBJG regular play and scored a 58, 4-over-par."

He added that there are 180 junior golfers set to compete for his age division and that unlike last year, R.J. would be playing without any caddy this time. "This year he is on his own with no caddy assistance."

Richard also didn't hide his disappointment

See RJ on Page 26

Klitschko stops Thompson in 11th to defend crown

By ROY KAMMERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



BERLIN (A P) — Wladimir Klitschko was forced to rediscover one of boxing's best weapons: his powerful right hand. With his jab ineffective, Klitschko knocked out former sparring partner Tony Thompson in the 11th round with a big right to successfully defend his heavyweight titles Saturday.

"My jab didn't work, I had to use the right—if Plan A doesn't work, try Plan B," Klitschko said after he retained his IBF, WBO and IBO heavyweight titles.

Klitschko (51-3, 45 knockouts) turned boos to cheers, sending the American to the canvas 1:38 into the 11th. He redeemed himself after an ugly 10th in which he pushed Thompson to the canvas and fell on him.

Klitschko's ninth straight win was tougher than expected, as he had to survive a second-round head-butt that left both fighters bleeding at the right eye.

"I'm still world champion, but it's about three titles now—that means everybody that



AP

Ukrainian boxer Vladimir Klitschko, left, lands a punch on Tony Thompson of the U.S. during their world heavyweight boxing title fight in Hamburg, Germany, Saturday, July 12, 2008.

fights me is extra motivated," said Klitschko, who holds the IBF and minor WBO and IBO titles. "I haven't had a black eye for a long time, now I re-

ally look like a fighter."

His corner stemmed the cut, but his face was marked by the fight. His left eye was swollen

See KLITSCHKO on Page 26

BANMI eyes changes in 25-and-under caging

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is mulling changes in the 25-and-under Basketball League that would essentially "ban" players already seeing action in the Saipan Rotary Club Summer Youth Basketball League.

This came to light during BANMI's monthly meeting Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium after some board members argued that Rotary cagers run the risk of getting fatigued when they play in both leagues, especially now that it is likely the 25-and-under and Rotary would be held almost at the same time.

One solution to the problem is raising the age requirement for BANMI's 25-and-under caging, whereas previous years anyone below 25 years old was allowed to play, the islands' basketball governing body is looking at raising the minimum age

See BANMI on Page 26